伊勢佐木
真剣卓球師
外伝

ラバーズ7

Rubbers Seven

犬上すくね
Presented by
Sukune Inugami

Game 01

SUNDAY GX COMICS

Rubbers Seven

Contents 目次

The Building is stuffed with Stories.

Our story began from here. The first floor is a convenience store.
The second floor is a karaoke room. And the third floor is a table tennis place.
Now, what kind of story will start today.

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OMAKE — 213

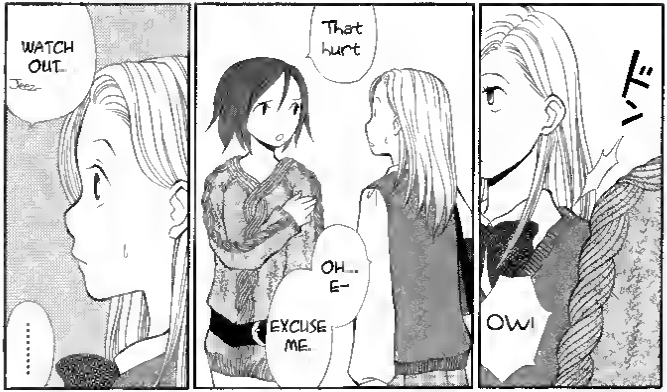
この物語はフィクションであり、実在の人物・団体・事件・商名等とはいっさい関係ありません。

Serve
1
WHAT?
ARE YOU KIDDING ME?
THAT GAME WAS JUST US WORKING OFF A MEAL, WASN'T IT?
DON'T GIVE US THAT BULL-SHIT!
WHY YOU LITTLE...!!
THIS IS A BATTLE
DIDN'T I TELL YOU FROM THE BEGIN-NING?
MAN, THAT'S JUST STUPID
NOBODY CAN HAVE THAT KIND OF SHIT WITH A DAMN PING-PONG GAME---
"SQUIR OF MR. KONG"
THE GAME IS OVER.
I WIN
YOU CAN'T HANG AROUND OUR TER-RITORY ANYMORE, GOT IT?

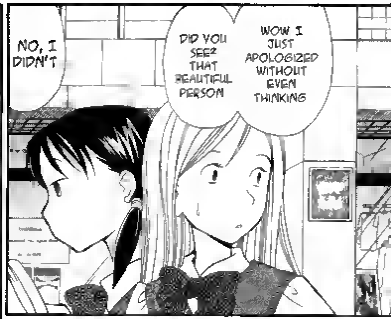
日々是決戦
BOSS, YOU REALLY DIDN'T HAVE TO GO THROUGH THE TROUBLE OF BEATING HIM UP, DID YOU?
HE RAN AWAY WITH HIS TAIL BETWEEN HIS LEGS.
WHAT A WORTHLESS BASTARD!
ポン
ポン
SINCE THAT'S ONE OF MY HOBBIES AS WELL.
IT'S ALRIGHT.
BUT LATELY ALL I'VE HAD ARE LAME MATCHES.
OH WELL,
カラオケ
7
UNFORTUNATELY, I AM NOT JOKING AROUND!
HEE... HEEE...
THAT IS OUR WAY.
ALL TROUBLES WILL BE DEALT WITH A BALL AND A PADDLE.
Serve 1
WELCOME PING PONG

I WANNA PLAY,
A ROUND THAT WOULD MAKE SOME HOT LADY SWOON.
YEAH, THAT SOUNDS REALLY GOOD, BOSS
ha ha ha

WELCOME TO THE STORE
HELLO!
OH, HI SU-CHAN COME ON IN
IS MUNE-NORI HERE?
PUSH
OH THE OWN-ER?
HE HASN'T SHOWN UP YET TODAY.
OH, I SEE
5
THEN, I'LL GO AHEAD AND GET THE STORE READY FOR OPENING
I'LL COME BACK LATER
ALL RIGHT. SEE YOU.

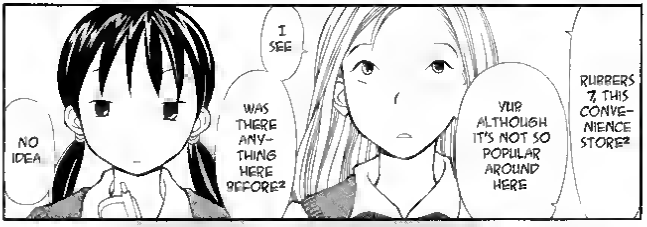

WATCH OUT
Jeez
That hurt
OH... E-
EXCUSE ME.
ハデ
OWI

THE PLACE WILL BE...
LET'S SEE MEETING TIME WILL BE 5 O'CLOCK
HUH? ARE YOU MEETING HIM?
NO WAY! I'M JUST GONNA STAND HIM UP.
IT'S A LOT OF FUN SINCE THESE PEOPLE check + ARE ALL out IDIOTS
I'M JUST KILLING TIME
WOW, THAT IS STUPID


NO, I DIDN'T
DID YOU SEE? THAT BEAUTIFUL PERSON
WOW I JUST APOLOGIZED WITHOUT EVEN THINKING

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
NO IDEA
WHO ARE YOU SENDING MAIL TO?
I SEE

ラバーズ
Rubbers
OH, THIS PLACE WILL DO.


RUBBERS ?, THIS CONVE-NIENCE STORE?
YUP. ALTHOUGH IT'S NOT SO POPULAR AROUND HERE
I SEE
WAS THERE ANY-THING HERE BEFORE?
NO IDEA

DING DONG
OKAY, AAND SEND.
I be waiting for you at Sugimachi commence store Rubbers
From Kiri

AWW, IT'S OVER, IT IS OVER
I WANNA GET SOME FOOD ON THE WAY HOME.
OH, SOUNDS GOOD!
HIROMI!
WHY DON'T YOU COME ALONG?
AH, CAN'T!
I GOTTA WORK TODAY

HUH?
MORE LIKE HE HAS TO KEEP WORKING THERE
WELL,
YEAH.
GOOD LUCK AT WORK.
I SEE
NO PROB-LEM.
A CONVENIENCE STORE CALLED 'RUBBERS 7'
WOW, HE WORKS THERE A LOT.
WHERE DOES HE WORK?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
BUT THE OWNER OF THAT STORE IS THE OWNER
HE REALLY WANTS TO QUIT,
LET'S SEE...
WHAT WAS IN THAT LO-CATION BEFORE?
DON'T YOU REMEM-BER?
RIGHT!
THE TOUNO-MOTO GROUP OR SOME-THING
OH YEA. THAT PLACE USED TO BE AN OFFICE FOR MOR-STERS.
HE WAS CAUGHT SHOPLIFTING AT THAT STORE,
AND HAS TO MAKE UP FOR IT BY WORKING AT THAT CONVE-NIENCE STORE FOR ALMOST NO SALARY

AH
SEEMS SCHOOL IS OVER
DING DONG
THE OWNER OF THAT CONVENIENCE STORE,
AND THAT GROUP'S BOSS IS THE SAME GUY
I GUESS I COULD'VE ATTENDED SINCE TODAY WAS BE CLASS
LOOKS LIKE I SKIPPED SCHOOL AGAIN
MEH,
OH WELL
WELCOME.
205 YEN PLEASE.
Color Mask
9

WELCOME!
UM, YOU MUST BE 'MIMI-CHAN' RIGHT?
HUH?

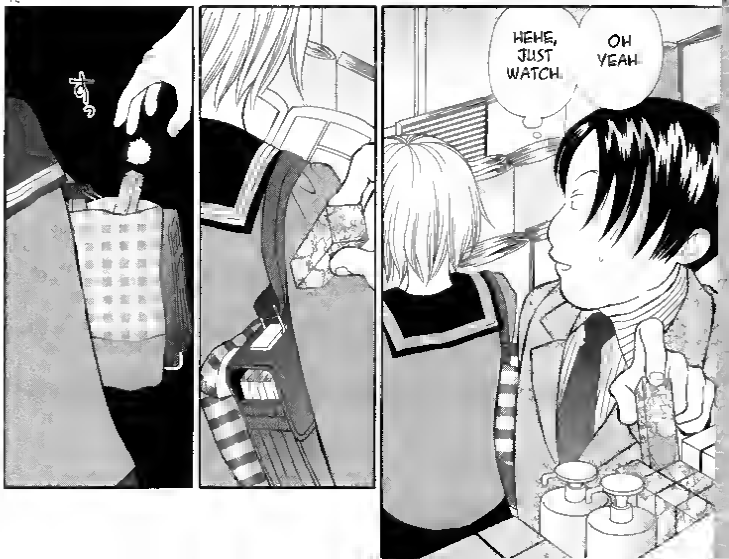
10

YOU'VE GOT THE WRONG PERSON
I AM "YUUKI"
YOU'RE THE "MIMI-CHAN" WHO SENT ME THE LETTER, RIGHT?
UH-UM,

.....
OH, HAHAHA
I WAS STOOD UP ANYWAY
EH?
O-OH REALLY?

HEY, IT'S ALRIGHT, JUST A LITTLE...
LEAVE ME ALONE!!
HAHA HA...
YOU ARE KINDA CUTE
ARE YOU FREE NOW? WANT TO HAVE TEA WITH ME?
11
.....
BUT ALL YOU'RE DOING IS READING MAGAZINES.
I'M KIND OF BUSY RIGHT NOW...

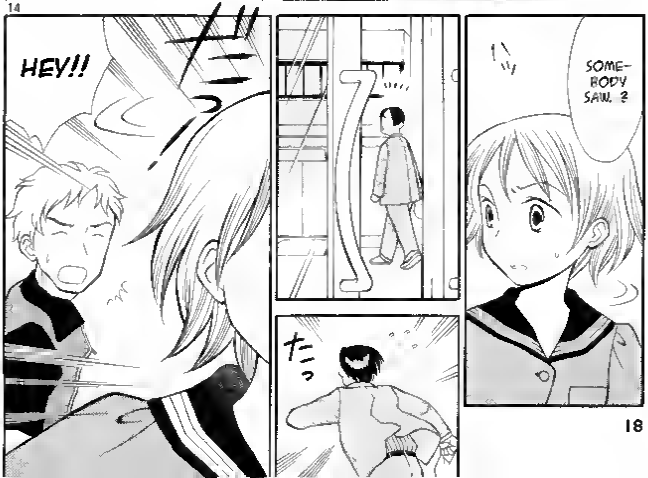
IS SOMETHING THE MATTER?
UM, NOTHING AT ALL!!
SHIT
YOU LOOKED BORED, AND I ASKED YOU OUT.
DON'T ACT SO STUCK-UP, BITCH!!


OH YEAH
HEHE, JUST WATCH.

I SAW HER SNEAK SOME LIPSTICK INTO HER BAG.
SHE MAY HAVE SHOPLIFTED SOME STUFF
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
13
THE GIRL OVER THERE READING MAGA-ZINES
EH?
EXCUSE ME.
WOULD YOU SHOW ME WHAT'S IN YOUR BAG?
WAIT,
ガシッ!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

YOU HAVEN'T PAID FOR THIS YET...
THIS
HUH?
WHAT!?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!
ARE YOU KIDDING ME? DON'T BE STUPID
SOMEBODY SAW YOU TAKE THAT

14


HEY!!
SOMEBODY SAW...?
たっ

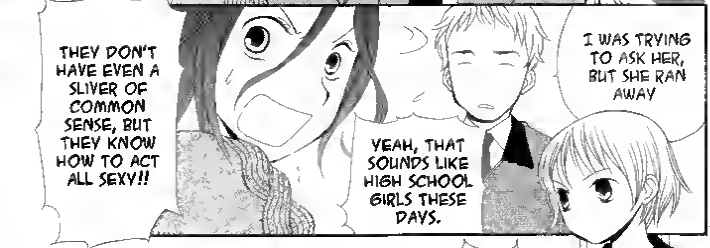
WAhh!!
Grab
MM, A NICE TIGHT LITTLE BUTT AS ALWAYS
SU-SU--SU--SU--CHAN!
HIROMI-
LET'S GO TOGETHER
ARE YOU GOING TO RUBBERS?
adam's apple
SO CLOSE, IN SO MANY WAYS

I GOTTA GET SOME ICE.
AND I WANNA SEE MUNENORI
HUH.
YOU REALLY LIKE THAT OLD MAN, SU-CHAN.
OH, NO.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE JEALOUS I LIKE YOU TOO,
AS MY SECOND FAVORITE
WOO HOO
that's just
SU-CHAN
ACTUAL NAME: SUGA JYUNYA
WORKS FOR A GAY BAR
HE LOOKS PERFECT FROM FAR AWAY
He is so cute And he likes me
THERE AREN'T MANY MEN AS WONDERFUL AS HIM
BUT MUNENORI'S SPECIAL.
I SEE, I SEE
HEEEEY, CATCH THAT GIRL!!

!!
Kyah!
!
WHAT?
WHAT?
DON'T LET HER GO, HIROMI!!
!!
WAH! CATCH HER SU-CHAN!
OUCH!!

KYAH!
!!
!!
!!!
OH MY GOSH, WHAT IS WITH THIS LITTLE MONKEY?
じたばた
じたばた
YOU DID A GOOD JOB, SU-CHAN!!
DON'T LET HER GO.
DON'T LET HER GET AWAY, EVEN IF IT KILLS YOU!

YEAH
SHOP-LIFTING?
SHE SHOP-LIFTED MAKEUP
卓球
カラオケ

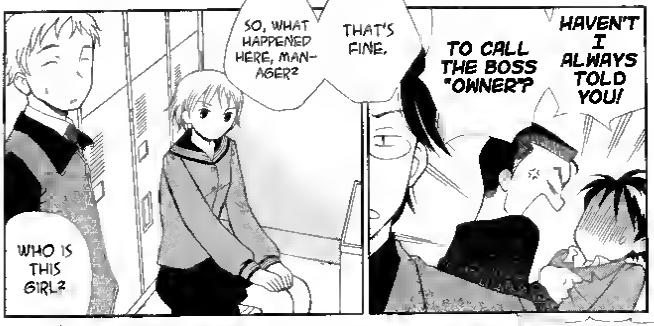

THEY DON'T HAVE EVEN A SLIVER OF COMMON SENSE, BUT THEY KNOW HOW TO ACT ALL SEXY!!
YEAH, THAT SOUNDS LIKE HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS THESE DAYS.
I WAS TRYING TO ASK HER, BUT SHE RAN AWAY

SI-LENCE.

WHICH SCHOOL DO YOU ATTEND?
WHAT IS YOUR NAME?

SHALL I SHUT YOU UP FOR GOOD!?
WHOA, STOP IT, SU-CHAN!!
YEAH, YOU NEED TO CALM DOWN!
AH, I SEE
SO THAT'S HOW YOU'RE GOING TO ACT
HEY,
YOUR SCHOOL UNIFORM IS THE SAME AS MINE
YOU GO TO CHUOU HIGH SCHOOL, DON'T YOU?
WHICH YEAR ARE YOU?
I'M A JUNIOR (2ND YEAR)
...HEY,
WHY DID YOU DO IT?
IF YOU HAVE ANY REASON...
Hmm Hmm
take a deep breath

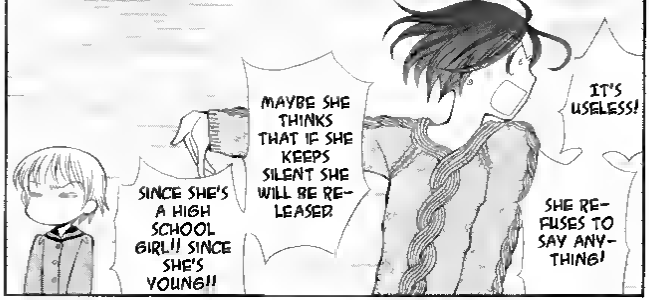
H-
HEY!!
I WAS PRETTY MUCH JUST LIKE YOU!
ふん
D-
DON'T GIVE ME THAT LOOK
I ACTUALLY BOTHERED TO ASK YOU.
NOBODY IS IN THE STORE.
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING, MANAGER?
SHUT UP, HIROMI!!!
びく
OLD MAN.
OWNER
MUNE NORI!

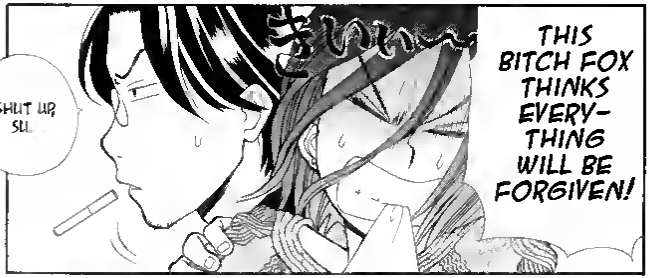

SO, WHAT HAPPENED HERE, MANAGER?
THAT'S FINE.
HAVEN'T I ALWAYS TOLD YOU!
TO CALL THE BOSS "OWNER"?
WHO IS THIS GIRL?

Listen to me, Munenori.

BUT SHE DOESN'T EVEN APOLOGIZE TO US
THEY ARE ALL THIS SNEAKY LITTLE CAT'S FAULT.
bitch...
JUST LOOK AT THIS!!
HIROMI AND I ARE BOTH ALL CUT UP
.....
YOUR NAME?
MISS.

Thank you come again

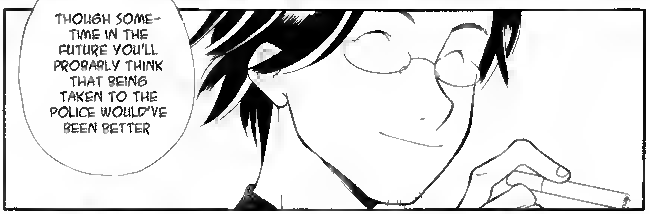

IT'S USELESS!
SHE REFUSES TO SAY ANYTHING!
MAYBE SHE THINKS THAT IF SHE KEEPS SILENT SHE WILL BE RELEASED
SINCE SHE'S A HIGH SCHOOL GIRL!! SINCE SHE'S YOUNG!!


THIS BITCH FOX THINKS EVERYTHING WILL BE FORGIVEN!
SHUT UP, SLI...

IF ONLY I COULD CAUSE THOSE EYES TO BE ON THE VERGE OF TE RS...
I BET IT'D BE A BEAUTIFUL SIGHT
SHE HAS SUCH DEFIANT EYES
SHE'S LACKING IN SEXINESS,
BUT SHE SEEMS TO BE KINDA PRETTY
THE SURPRISING THING IS HER EYES

MISS.
MY NAME IS TOUNOMOTO MUNENORI
I AM THE OWNER OF THIS CONVE-NIENCE STORE, "RUBBERS 7"
I ALSO OWN THE KARAOKE SHOP ON THE SECOND FLOOR, AND THE PING PONG GAME CENTER ON THE THIRD FLOOR
SO, I DON'T CARE IF YOU TALK OR NOT.
UNFORTU-NATELY, AT A CERTAIN POINT I HAVE TO STEP IN AND HANDLE THIS SORT OF BULLSHIT.
WHY DON'T WE PLAY A GAME?
AT THE PING PONG GAME CENTER ON THE THIRD FLOOR.
WE WILL PLAY A GAME RIGHT NOW.
IF YOU WIN, I WILL LET THIS ALL SLIDE.
BUT IF YOU LOSE, YOU GOTTA PAY THE PRICE
25
24

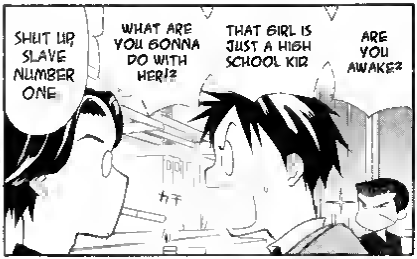
WHAAAT, IT'S NOT A BIG DEAL
UNTIL I'M SATISFIED
YOU CAN JUST PAY ME WITH YOUR BODY
IT WON'T BE REPORTED TO THE POLICE OFFERING THAT MUCH IS OBVIOUS, ISN'T IT?


THOUGH SOMETIME IN THE FUTURE YOU'LL PROBABLY THINK THAT BEING TAKEN TO THE POLICE WOULD'VE BEEN BETTER

I WILL LET YOU WORK FOR ME,
AS A SLAVE. ♥

26

WHAT?
き


SHUT UP, SLAVE NUMBER ONE!
WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO WITH HER!?
THAT GIRL IS JUST A HIGH SCHOOL KID
ARE YOU AWAKE?

I MEAN, BOSS, NO WAIT, OWNER!
HEY, OLD...

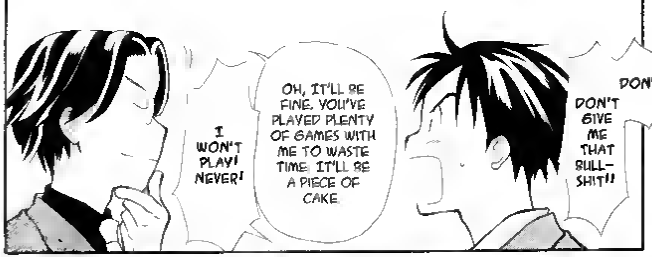
YOU PLAY THE GAME, HIROMI MORIOKA.
WHO THE HELL IS SLAVE NUMBER ONE!!

EH ?

27

And I will stare at her organs here in detail♥
I WANT TO WATCH THIS TIME
WHA... WHAT?

WHY THE HELL SHOULD I HAVE TO PLAY AGAINST HER?


DON'T, DON'T GIVE ME THAT BULL-SHIT!!
OH, IT'LL BE FINE. YOU'VE PLAYED PLENTY OF GAMES WITH ME TO WASTE TIME. IT'LL BE A PIECE OF CAKE.
I WON'T PLAY! NEVER!

OH, ONE MORE THING. YOU GOTTA TAKE YOUR TIME AND REALLY HURT HER
I want to see her all sweaty
I FUCK-ING SAID NO!!

.....
THEN I'LL GRANT YOU ONE WISH.

HUH?
YOU CAN QUIT THIS JOB.
OR YOU CAN GET THE HIGHER HOURLY WAGE COMPARED TO YOUR CURRENT SHOTTY WAGE.
IF YOU ACCEPT THIS GAME, I WILL GIVE YOU ANYTHING YOU WANT.

YOU KNOW?
THAT'S THE WAY I HANDLE THINGS
IT WAS THE SAME FOR YOU WAY BACK WHEN.
SO SHE IS NO EXCEP-TION.
IT'S NOT A BAD IDEA, RIGHT?
HEY, YOU JUST THINK OF YOUR-SELF
WELL, IF YOU DON'T WANT TO THEN IT'S ALRIGHT.
I WILL PLAY THE GAME AS USUAL.
SHE WILL LOSE
THAT'LL BE THAT
29

SUIT YOUR-SELF!!
THAT'S MY BOY
...S-
SO WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER FOR YOU TO CHOOSE THE WAY THAT BENEFITS YOU?
SO WHAT DO YOU THINK? EITHER WAY, THE RESULT WILL BE THE SAME
.....

OH, YOU DON'T HAVE MUCH OF A CHOICE.
YOU GO OUT BY WINNING THIS GAME,
OR LOSE AND DEDICATE YOUR BODY TO ME.
ONE OF THE TWO.
'PING PONG OR DIE!

PEOPLE WHO CAUSE TROUBLES...
SUCH AS FIGHTS AND SHOPLIFTING IN THIS SHOP (RUBBERS7) HAVE TO PLAY PING-PONG
ALL OTHER SMALL RULES WILL BE IGNORED!
YOU WILL PLAY THREE, 11 POINT MATCHES.
!!
AS FOR THE MATCH,
WINNING MEANS FREEDOM AND LOSING MEANS SLAVERY...

Serve 2

THE MOMENT THE HEART BEGINS TO MOVE

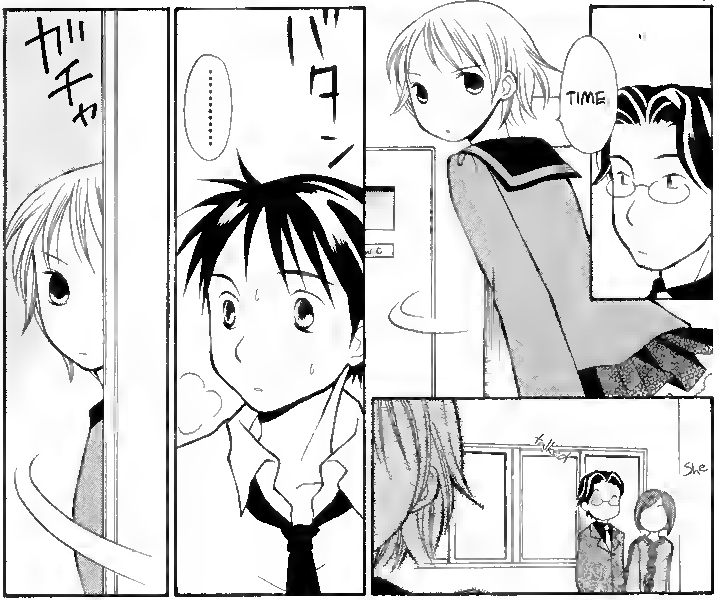
I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE HOW LONG YOU CAN KEEP UP THAT SULKING FACE!!
YOU KNOW THAT LOSING TWO GAMES OUT OF THREE MEANS DEFEAT, DON'T YOU!?
HEY, YOU HAVE PASSED THE POINT OF NO RETURN, YOUNG LADY!
3
ARE THEY SERIOUS, SU-CHAN AND THAT OLD MAN?
.....
YEAH, THAT'S IT. SHOW ME HER CRYING FACE
KEEP KNOCKING THAT SILLY GIRL DOWN!
HIROMI, YOU ARE DOING WELL!
"UNTIL I'M SATISFIED"
"YOU CAN JUST P. V ME WITH YOUR BODY."
IF THIS GIRL,
REALLY LOSES,
BOSSU

IS HE REALLY GOING TO?
"DO THAT"?
OUCH!
HE WON'T,
I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT...
0 — 1 !!
2 — 4 !!
AL-THOUGH,
THAT OLD MAN IS...
3 — 6 !!
3 — 7 !!
HIROMI !!
Aw!
5 — 9 !!

HIROMI,
STOP FUCKING AROUND
I TOLD YOU TO DRAW OUT THE GAME, BUT I NEVER TOLD YOU TO LOSE
I DON'T FUCKING CARE ABOUT YOUR CONDI-TION..
YOU WILL WIN.
UNDER-STAND?

THAT'S IT!!
HE IS SO AWESOME WHEN HE IS PISSED OFF
OH, MY GOD.
YOU! MAKE ME CRAZY!!
Su-
stop rubbing your hip on me.
DAMN.
THAT CHICK REALLY SCRATCHED ME GOOD.
ズキンズキン
AL-RIGHT.
THIS IS WHY YOU GUYS AREN'T LIKE NORMAL PEOPLE.
HA
SHIT!
GOOD BOY.

OH,
AND YOU TOO, GIRL.
IF YOU DON'T PLAY HARD LIKE YOUR LIFE DEPENDS ON IT.
YOU WILL NEVER WIN THE GAME AS LONG AS LONG AS YOU KEEP WORRYING ABOUT YOUR SKIRT FLYING UP.
You're going to lose anyway, brat.
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
IT'LL BE MORE THAN SHOWING OFF YOUR UNDERWEAR IF YOU LOSE THIS GAME.
You still are going to lose though (grin)
7

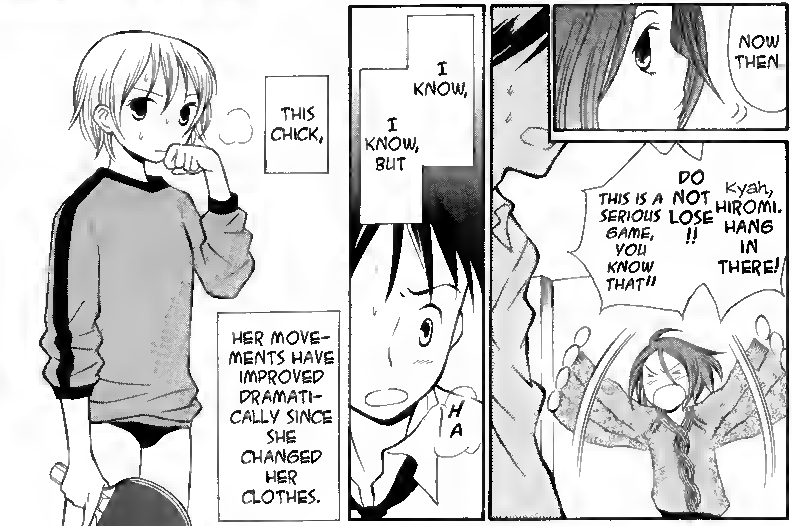

TIME
She.
バタン
.....
ガチャ

stare
PLEASE.
AH, I SEE...
THEN, IT'S YOUR SERVE!

If that's what you want I'd be glad to grow my legs off to you anytime!
HUH!
C'MON, LOOK AT THOSE BARE LEGS
WHAT ARE YOU BLUSHING FOR!!
Student Identification
Name
Address
This confirms that the above per
is a student at this school.
Chuou High Sch
Principal
9

KOBA-YASHI..2
添野 小林 なつき
1—10!
Oh no, HANG IN THERE HIROMI!
YOU'RE GONNA LOSE IF YOU MISS ONE MORE POINT!!
Pi Ri Ri
HEY, SU! WHERE THE HECK ARE YOU NOW?
AH, MIKI
THE STORE IS OPEN AND RUNNING.
WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH ICE!!
Thump
AW, AND IT WAS JUST GETTING GOOD TOO
10

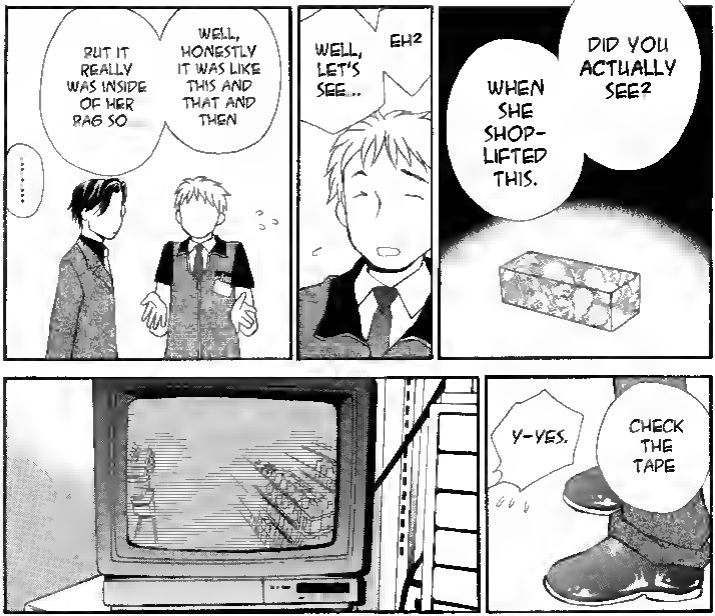
くるっ
I AM GOING NOW!!
FIVE BAGS OF ICE, OKAY?
DON'T FORGET THE RECEIPT
すたすた"
Yasu-chan ♥
Y-YES?
I have a favor to ask of you could you go get more ice for the store? ♥
stutter
jitters


NOW THEN.
Kyah, HIROMI. HANG IN THERE!
DO NOT LOSE!!
THIS IS A SERIOUS GAME, YOU KNOW THAT!!
I KNOW, I KNOW, BUT
HA
THIS CHICK,
HER MOVEMENTS HAVE IMPROVED DRAMATICALLY SINCE SHE CHANGED HER CLOTHES.

HAS SHE PLAYED PING-PONG BEFORE?
ALL THAT TIME I'VE SPENT...
PLAYING AGAINST THE OLD MAN HASN'T BEEN FOR NOTHING.
カキン
12
I CAN'T AFFORD TO SYMPATHIZE WITH HER
I SHOULD ...
HAVE NO PROBLEM AGAINST YOU EVEN IF I HAVE A LITTLE BIT OF A HANDICAP
ALL RIGHT, COME ON, LITTLE GIRL!

OH, NO WONDER.
I THOUGHT I'D SEEN HER SOMEWHERE BEFORE.
I'M GOING TO BORROW THE COPY MACHINE.
SURE, GO AHEAD.
YOU KNOW HOW TO USE IT, DON'T YOU?
AH, OWNER.
YEAH,
IT'S THOSE EYES.

HOW IS THE GAME GOING?
OH?
YASU-SAN TOLD ME ABOUT THE GAME WHEN HE LEFT.
HI"
YEAH, IT'S GOOD MATCH
WHAT'S THAT IN YOUR POCKET?
EH?
AH!
YEAH?
THAT GIRL SEEMS TO BE PRETTY GUTSY.
14
YES?
MAN-AGER
.....
I'D BEEN FORGETTING TO PLACE THIS RACK DURING ALL THE COM-MOTION
THIS IS WHAT SHE SHOP-LIFTED
NO, REALLY

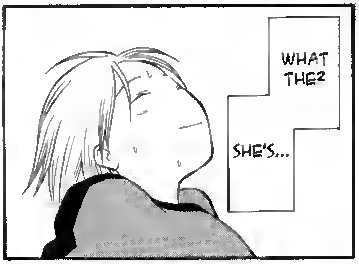

WELL, HONESTLY IT WAS LIKE THIS AND THAT AND THEN
BUT IT REALLY WAS INSIDE OF HER BAG SO
.....
EH?
WELL, LET'S SEE..
DID YOU ACTUALLY SEE?
WHEN SHE SHOP-LIFTED THIS.
CHECK THE TAPE
Y-YES.
!
AH!

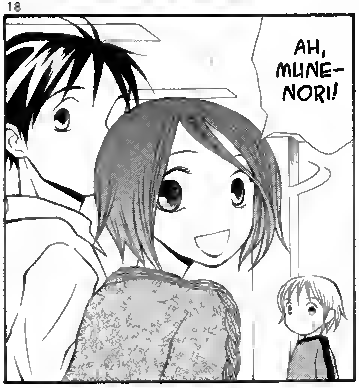
WITH THIS...
IT'S OVER!!
!
.....

WOO-HOO, HIROMI!
12 / 10 !
IT'S YOUR WIN, HIROMI!
THAT WAS EXCEL-LENT!
ha ha

ha
ha

.....

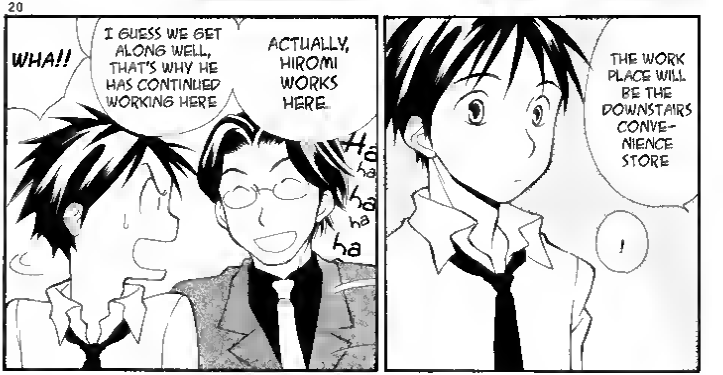

WHAT THE?
SHE'S...

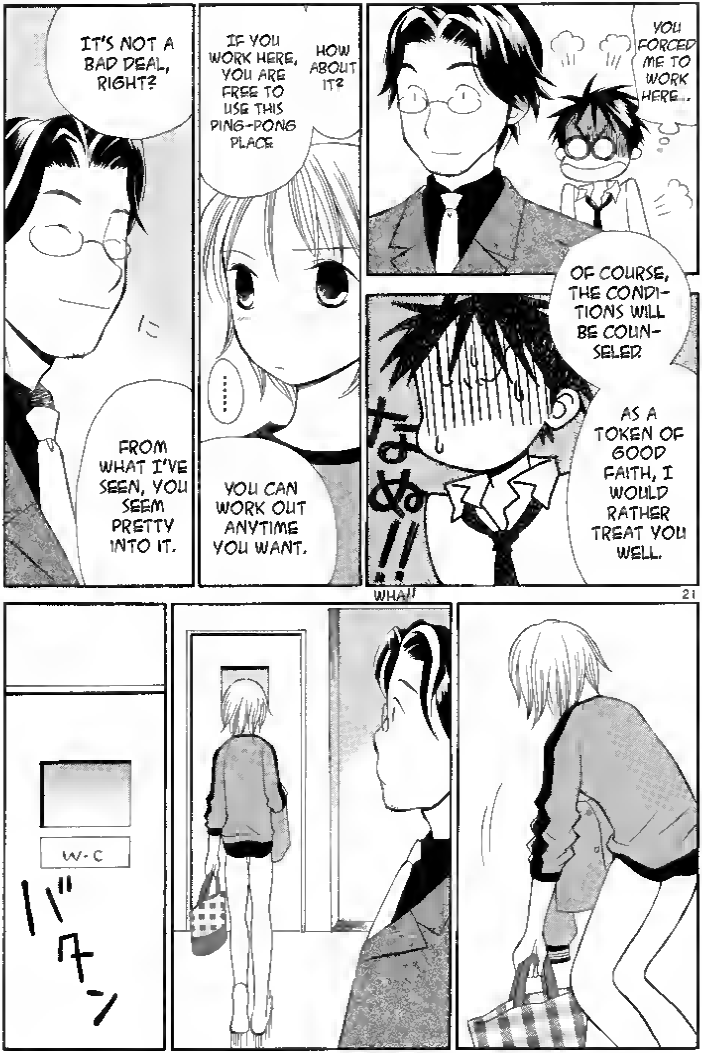

AH, MUNE-NORI!

YOUNG LADY,
DID YOU REALLY SHOPLIFT?
ANYWAY, HIROMI WON THE GAME.
WHERE WERE YOU?
I FORGOT TO ASK YOU THE MOST IMPORTANT QUESTION.
NO, I DID NOT.
HA
Ha
WHY DID YOU ACCEPT THIS GAME THEN?
...I FIGURED IT WOULD BE POINTLESS TO SAY ANYTHING TO SOMEONE WHO DECIDES THINGS WITHOUT EVEN LISTENING TO REASON
GLARE
THOUGH IT WAS ME WHO SAID THAT YOU REALLY DIDN'T REALLY HAVE A CHOICE

...I SEE
YOU ARE RIGHT.
WE ARE REALLY SORRY.
PLEASE FORGIVE US.
BUT...
A GAME IS A GAME.
WE DON'T HAVE ANY EVIDENCE AS TO WHETHER OR NOT YOU ACTUALLY SHOPLIFTED
SO, LET'S JUST SAY,
THAT THE TWO CANCEL EACH OTHER OUT.
AND I WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU NOW..
WOULD YOU LIKE TO WORK HERE AS AN AFTER-SCHOOL JOB?

20


WHA!!
I GUESS WE GET ALONG WELL, THAT'S WHY HE HAS CONTINUED WORKING HERE
ACTUALLY, HIROMI WORKS HERE.
Ha ha ha ha
THE WORK PLACE WILL BE THE DOWNSTAIRS CONVE-NIENCE STORE
!


IT'S NOT A BAD DEAL, RIGHT?
FROM WHAT I'VE SEEN, YOU SEEM PRETTY INTO IT.
IF YOU WORK HERE, YOU ARE FREE TO USE THIS PING-PONG PLACE
HOW ABOUT IT?
.....
YOU CAN WORK OUT ANYTIME YOU WANT.
YOU FORCED ME TO WORK HERE...
OF COURSE, THE CONDITIONS WILL BE COUNSELED
AS A TOKEN OF GOOD FAITH, I WOULD RATHER TREAT YOU WELL.
なぬ!!
WHAT!
21
W.C
バタン

スッ
ガチャ

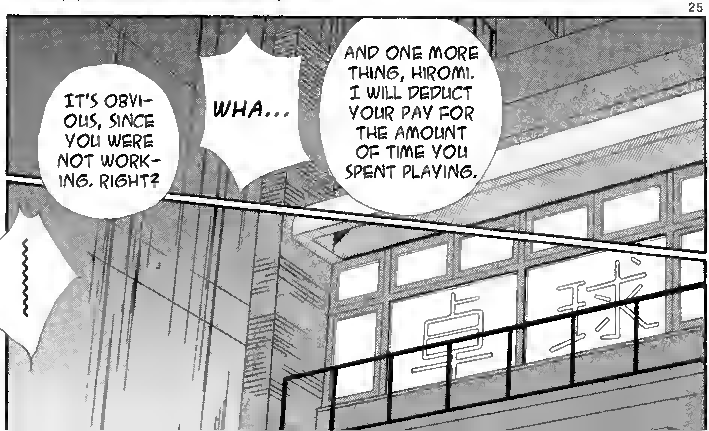
STOP BY ANYTIME,
I'LL BE WAITING, NATSUKI!
.....

スタスタ
……
HEY, WHY THE HELL DID YOU CALL HER NAME OUT LIKE THAT?

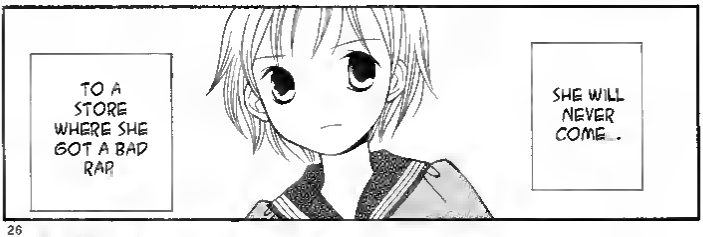
OH YEA, HIROMI.
UNFORTUNATELY I CANNOT GRANT YOUR REQUEST THIS TIME.
ACTUALLY, WHY DO YOU EVEN KNOW HER NAME!?
ANSWER ME!!
HUH?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
WELL, I WASN'T ABLE TO TELL YOU BEFORE,
BUT THAT GIRL DIDN'T SHOPLIFT.
I CHECKED OUT THE TAPE.
SO THAT MEANS THAT WE JUST PLAYED A GAME THAT WE DIDN'T EVEN HAVE TO PLAY...
SO IN PLAIN WORDS, THE OUTCOME OF THE MATCH WAS INVALID
I KNOW, I'M SORRY TO MAKE YOU WASTE YOUR EFFORTS
THAT'S JUST BULLSHIT,
DO YOU THINK I CAN ACCEPT SUCH AN EXCUSE?
IT'S ALRIGHT, LET IT ALL OUT.
THOUGH LETTING IT OUT PROBABLY WON'T CHANGE ANYTHING
OGRE?
DEVIL!

MOBSTER!!
Well... yeah. ♫

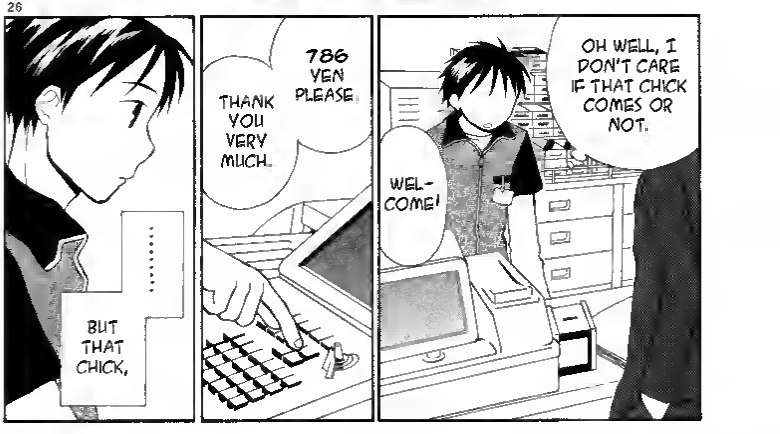
SO, NOW IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO GET DOWN-STAIRS.
THE MAN-AGER HAS BEEN HAN-DLING EV-ERYTHING
SU-, WON'T IT BE BAD IF YOU DON'T GET TO WORK SOON?
OH, THAT'S RIGHT. I FORGOT


AND ONE MORE THING, HIROMI. I WILL DEDUCT YOUR PAY FOR THE AMOUNT OF TIME YOU SPENT PLAYING.
WHA...
IT'S OBVI-OUS, SINCE YOU WERE NOT WORK-ING. RIGHT?

A FEW DAYS LATER...
WEL-COME!


TO A STORE WHERE SHE GOT A BAD RAP
SHE WILL NEVER COME.

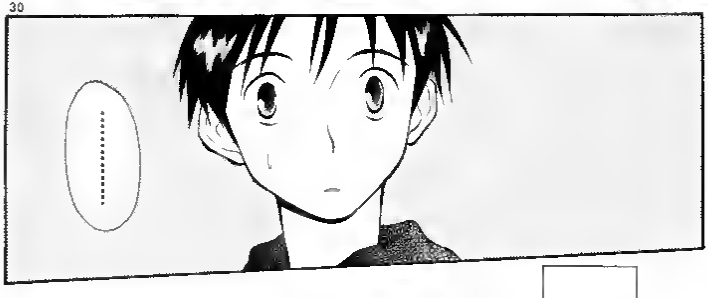
26


OH WELL, I DON'T CARE IF THAT CHICK COMES OR NOT.
WEL-COME!
786 YEN PLEASE.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
BUT THAT CHICK,

...SUCH A WEIRDO.
EVEN THOUGH SHE HAD NO IDEA WHAT WOULD'VE HAPPENED TO HER,
SHE WAS DEFI-NITELY SMILING.
*NOTE: NOT HIS MOM.
HI, WEL-COME TO OUR STORE, MAMA-SAN.
AH,
DO YOU HAVE A BOTTLE OPENER?
AND HER SHOES,
WERE SO SURPRIS-INGLY TINY.
27
SHE DIDN'T SEEM TO BE IN MY GRADE, BUT...
...REALLY, WHAT GRADE IS SHE IN?
HIROMI-CHAN.

OH, THE STORE'S PACKED WITH CUSTOMERS.
WELCOME!
YES, RIGHT HERE
THANK YOU.
I CAN HELP WAITING CUSTOMERS,
AT THIS REGISTER
23 YEN IS YOUR CHANGE.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
28
WELCOME...
GO BACK

AHHHH!
F...FIVE YEN IS YOUR CHANGE.
UM...
OH, OKAY
OUT OF 210 YEN...
Y... YOU,
チャラ
カラ!
HEY, NATSUKI !!
WAIT A MIN-UTE!
W...



BEGAN TO WORK WITH ME AT THIS CONVENIENCE STORE RUN BY THE MOB.

THIS SLIGHTLY UNSOCIAL GIRL...

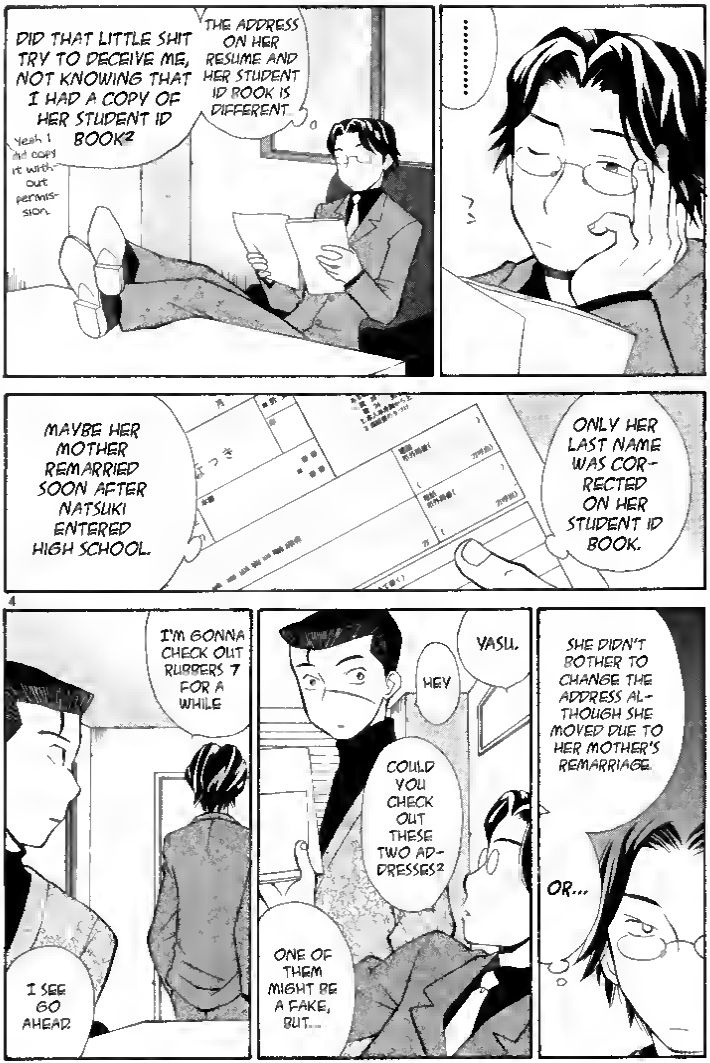
IN THIS WAY,

Serve 3

WHAT ARE YOU LEARNING AT SCHOOL?

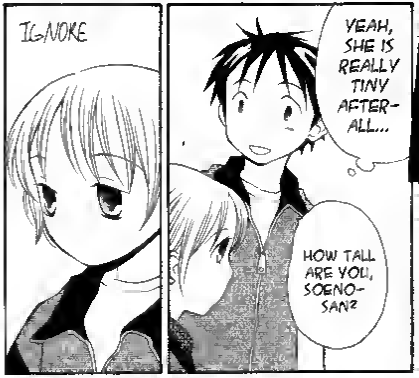
I GUESS I'D BETTER LEAVE ALL THIS STUFF AT THE BAR AND THEN GO TO MUNENORI'S PLACE
HM?
I GUESS I BOUGHT TOO MUCH.
WHEW
I'M SO BAD, WANTING EVERYTHING I SEE
♪
THAT WAS...
!
SNG

ラバーズ
AH.
H... HEY.
V-YOU MUST BE SOENO-SAN GOOD LUCK STARTING TODAY
スッ
……
!
ムッ


DID THAT LITTLE SHIT TRY TO DECEIVE ME, NOT KNOWING THAT I HAD A COPY OF HER STUDENT ID BOOK?
Yeah I did copy it without permission.
THE ADDRESS ON HER RESUME AND HER STUDENT ID BOOK IS DIFFERENT.
.....
?
MAYBE HER MOTHER REMARRIED SOON AFTER NATSUKI ENTERED HIGH SCHOOL.
ONLY HER LAST NAME WAS CORRECTED ON HER STUDENT ID BOOK.
4
I'M GONNA CHECK OUT RUBBERS 7 FOR A WHILE
I SEE GO AHEAD
YASU.
HEY
COULD YOU CHECK OUT THESE TWO ADDRESSES?
ONE OF THEM MIGHT BE A FAKE, BUT...
SHE DIDN'T BOTHER TO CHANGE THE ADDRESS ALTHOUGH SHE MOVED DUE TO HER MOTHER'S REMARRIAGE.
OR...

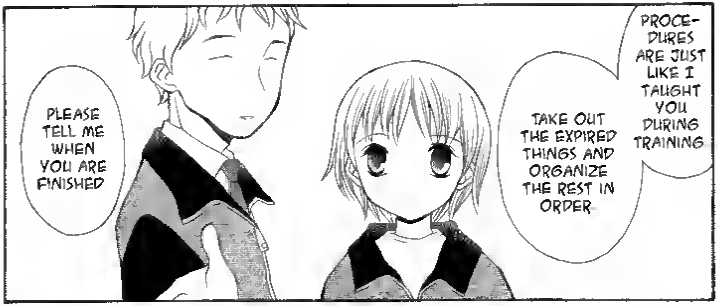
OH, LET'S SEE...

I WONDER IF THERE IS A SMALL SIZE
I'LL ASK THE HEAD OFFICE


IGNORE
YEAH, SHE IS REALLY TINY AFTER-ALL...
HOW TALL ARE YOU, SOENO-SAN?

IT SEEMS TO BE REALLY BIG ON YOU.

OH, I GUESS IT'S TOO LATE. YOU'VE STOPPED GROWING. YOU HAVEN'T GROWN EVEN A MILLIMETER.
YOU'RE NOT HELPING!
HAVE YOU EVEN GROWN A LITTLE, SINCE BECOMING A JUNIOR?
OLD MAN!
WELL THEN HOW TALL ARE YOU, HIROMI?
!
SO, FIRST OFF I THINK I'LL HAVE YOU ARRANGE THIS AREA.
PLEASE PUT THIS ON
YOU FOCUS WAY TOO MUCH ON DETAILS.
I AM 165 cm! YOU CAN'T JUST LEAVE OUT 5 WHOLE CENTIMETERS!
IT'S ALL RIGHT. 160cm IS A FINE HEIGHT.
SHUT UP!!
Soeno
.....


PLEASE TELL ME WHEN YOU ARE FINISHED
TAKE OUT THE EXPIRED THINGS AND ORGANIZE THE REST IN ORDER
PROCEDURES ARE JUST LIKE I TAUGHT YOU DURING TRAINING

WELCOME.
OH, WELCOME
.....

EH?
I'M FINISHED.

DAILY FOOD
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
PLEASE VISIT US AGAIN.

EH!!
FAST-
I'M FINISHED
THEN, I WILL ASK YOU TO SWEEP OUTSIDE
WOW
YOU ARE GOOD
THEY ARE ORGANIZED SO WELL
てきぱき
THEN, HOW ABOUT THIS?
ARRANGE THE SHELVES OF INSTANT FOOD
WIPE EACH OF THEM WITH A CLOTH AND ORGANIZE IN ORDER ACCORDING TO EXPIRATION DATE
THIS IS PRETTY TOUGH.
The more varied shaped things there are, the more time it'll take.
I'M FINISHED
I

DON'T MAKE ME A UNIT OF MEASUREMENT!
ONE NATSUKI CAN WORK AS MUCH AS THREE HIROMI
WOW.
ARE YOU SURE YOU'VE NEVER WORKED AT A CONVENIENCE STORE BEFORE?
...YOU ARE AMAZING...
...I WONDER IF I'VE BEEN PAYING YOU FOR NO REASON ALL THIS TIME...
WAIT, THE WAGE WAS LESS THAN ORDINARY!
HEY!
9
WELCOME.
にっこり
DOESN'T IT SEEM LIKE SOMETHING'S MISSING?
?
ゆらり
OH, IT'S JUST SU...

THE SOUND OF "WELCOME!" SEEMED LIKE IT WAS ONE VOICE SHORT.
ALL I'M SAYING IS,
ぼん!
MUNE NORI !!
SHE IS JUST EMBAR-RASSED
TODAY IS NATSUKI'S FIRST DAY.
PLEASE LET IT GO.
..TEACHES YOUNG FEMALE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT WORKERS THAT GREETING CUSTOMERS ISN'T NECESSARY?
OR, WAIT? MAYBE THIS STORE...
HEY, CALM DOWN, SU
.....
You'll catch HELL if you underestimate the service industry!

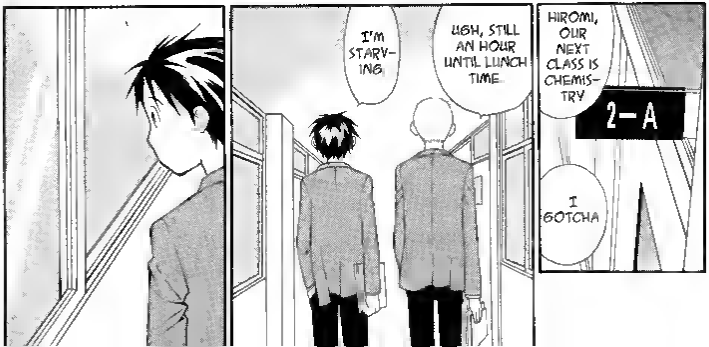
I AM SO DISAP-POINTED IN YOU, MUNE-NORI!
YOU'LL SEE! SHE'LL DEFINITELY START SKIPPING WORK SOON!
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'D STICK UP FOR SUCH A STUCK-UP GIRL!
KWWW!
CUSTOMERS ARE GODS! BUSINESS IS ALL ABOUT ATTENDING TO A CUSTOMER'S NEED LIKE YOU'RE A SERVANT! SO WHAT THE HELL IS THIS? HOW COULD YOU HIRE SOME ANTI-SOCIAL GIRL LIKE HER!?
FIRST THE GREET-ING AND SECOND THE SMILE.
I KNOW ALL ABOUT YOUR KIND!!
Hmph!
RIGHT!
NATSUKI!!
SHUT UP!
SINCE HE ONLY DOES THE WORK OF HALF A PERSON.
UNTIL THEN, HIROMI WILL DO THE GREETING FOR TWO PEOPLE!
I GUESS YOU WILL GET ACCUSTOMED TO IT LITTLE BY LITTLE.
"WELL,
11

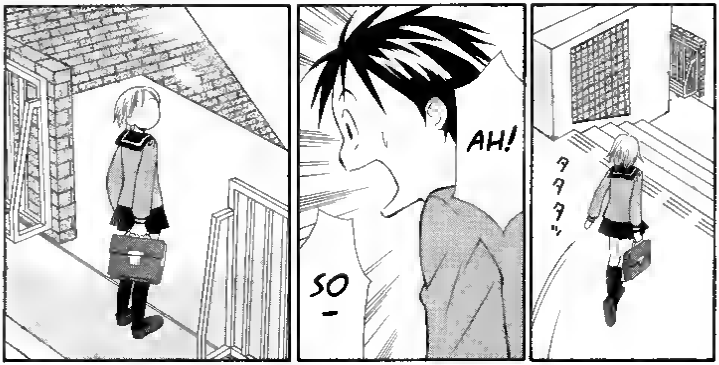
EVEN THOUGH SHE'S A NEW HIRE
EVEN THOUGH SHE'S A GRADE LOWER THAN ME
THEN COULD YOU ARRANGE THESE SHELVES?
REALLY, SHE REALLY GETS ON MY NERVES
カッキーン
I WILL DEAL WITH THE UPPER SHELF
IS SHE MAD THAT I SUSPECTED HER FROM THE BEGINNING?
12
Finished at the same time.
The rest of the shelves
Just one shelf
SWISH SWISH
Wipe Wipe
SWISH SWISH
WIPE WIPE
...HEY
WHY DID YOU SHOPLIFT THAT?
IF YOU HAVE ANY REASON...

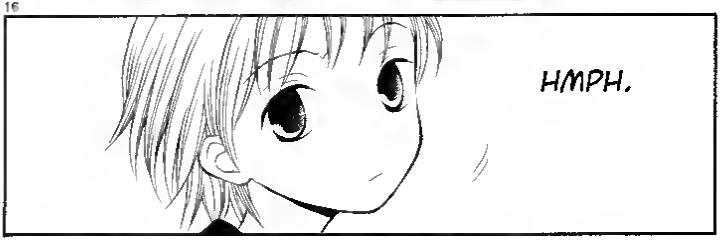
AGH!
SHE ANNOYS ME SO MUCH.
1-B
ペチャ
クチャ
AH!

AH, SORRY. BUT,
WELL, WHAT WAS YOUR NAME?
KOBAYASHI-SAN?
NO NO, SOENO-SAN!
YEAH, THIS IS HER SEAT, SOENO-SAN!
HEY, HEY MOVE OUT OF THE WAY, TAKECCH!
THEN, I WILL RECORD THE 100 METER TIME FOR A GROUP OF TWO.
Katan
LONG TIME NO SEE
YEAH, MAN BEEN A WHILE
HEY!
LET'S SEE, NOW...
NEXT IS KOUNO AND KOBAYASHI
YES.
HER LAST NAME'S SOENO NOW
HM? WHERE IS KOBAYASHI?
SHE'S HERE
IS SHE NOT HERE?

GOAL!
IT IS NOT FINE AT ALL.
I AM...
SOENO, COULD YOU JUST RUN AS IT IS FOR TODAY?
OH WELL.
I'M SORRY I FORGOT TO CORRECT IT.
OH, THAT'S RIGHT.
SOENO SHOULD BE BETWEEN SATOU AND SOGABE
NEITHER KOBAYASHI
NOR SOENO.
WOW, THAT'S GREAT SOENO.
GOOD TIME.
Ding Dong

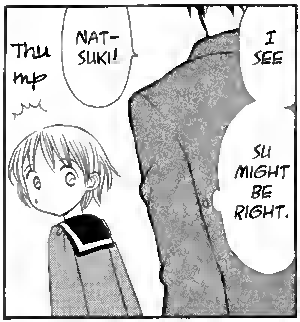

I'M STARVING.
UGH, STILL AN HOUR UNTIL LUNCH TIME.
HIROMI, OUR NEXT CLASS IS CHEMISTRY
2-A
I GOTCHA


AH!
SO-
タタタッ


HMPH.

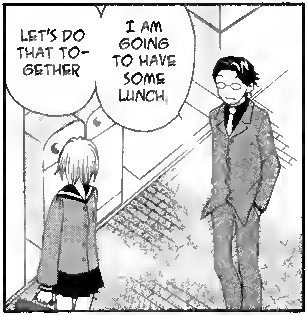
IS THAT NATSUKI?
HUH?

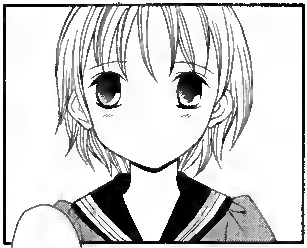
HEY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING, HIROMI?
you
fool
……!!


Thu mp
NAT-SUKI!
I SEE
SU MIGHT BE RIGHT.

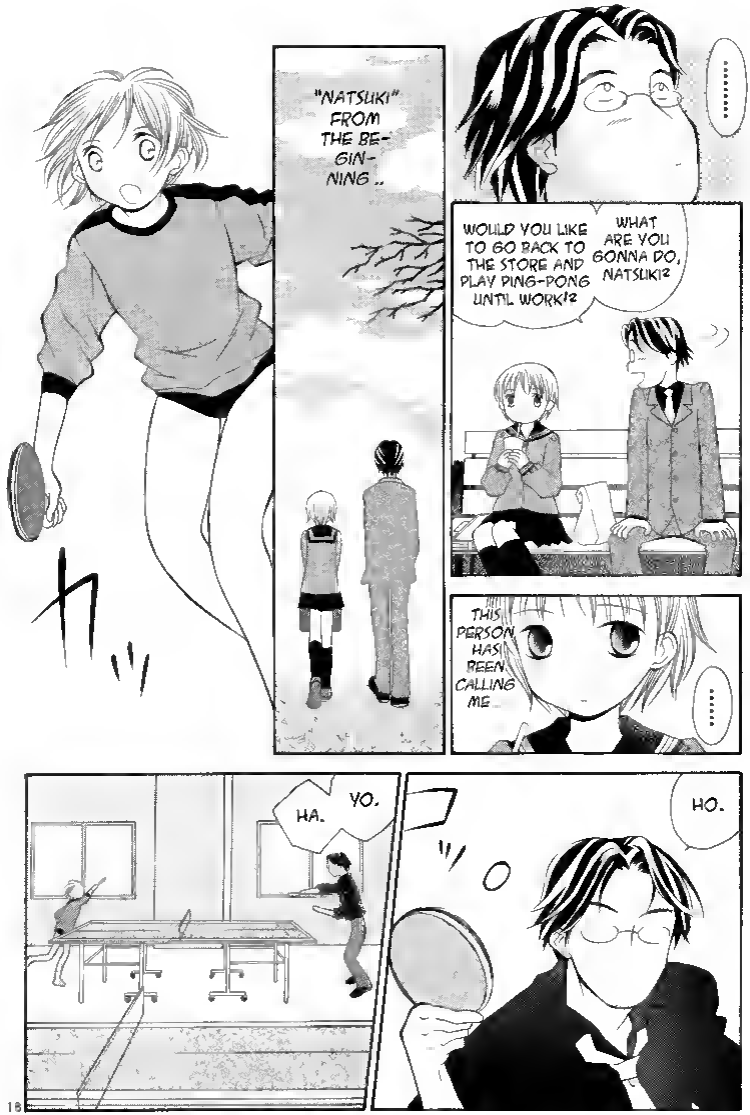
IS SHE SKIP-PING CLASS?
I KNOW ALL ABOUT YOUR KIND!

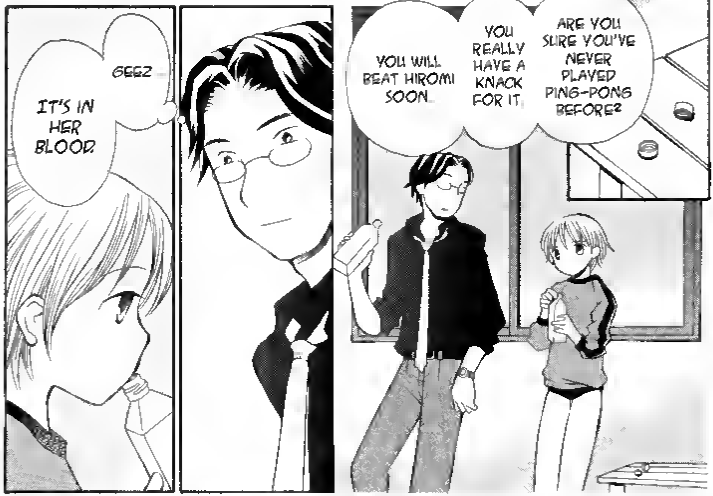
SHE REALLY DOESN'T SEEM LIKE THE TYPE TO MAKE FRIENDS
Are you sure all you want is one?


I AM GOING TO HAVE SOME LUNCH.
LET'S DO THAT TO-GETHER


REALLY THOUGH

What the hell do I talk about with a girl over 15 years younger than me?
WHAT THE HELL AM I THINK-ING?
AND THEN THERE'S ME.


"NATSUKI" FROM THE BE-GIN-NING..
.....
WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO, NATSUKI?
WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO BACK TO THE STORE AND PLAY PING-PONG UNTIL WORK!?
THIS PERSON HAS BEEN CALLING ME...
.....
HA.
YO.
HO.


ARE YOU SURE YOU'VE NEVER PLAYED PING-PONG BEFORE?
YOU REALLY HAVE A KNACK FOR IT.
YOU WILL BEAT HIROMI SOON.
GEEZ
IT'S IN HER BLOOD.

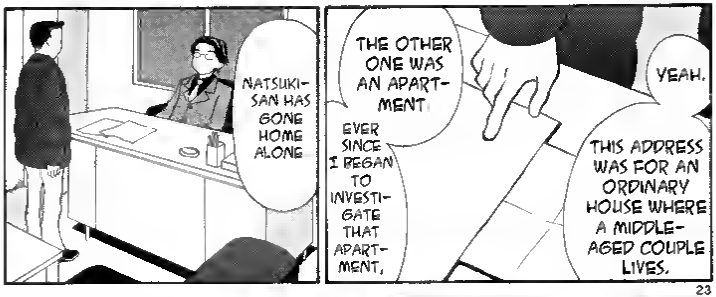
...I GUESS TIME IS UP.
CHANGE YOUR CLOTHES AND GO DOWN-STAIRS.
I'M GOING TO HEAD DOWN STAIRS NOW.
.....
OWN-ER...
YEAH, NATSUKI?

カラオケ
WEL-COME.
UM..
I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK YOU.
OH, HIROMI?
YOU'RE KINDA LATE.
I'M SORRY.
HOME-ROOM RAN LONG.

SOENO IS ALREADY HERE.
She is changing her clothes now.
YEAH, SHE SHOULD BE HERE
SINCE SHE SKIPPED HER CLASSES AROUND NOON

WHAT WAS WITH YOUR ATTITUDE THIS AFTER-NOON?
.....
AH,
HEY, SOENO-SAN!
Natsuki
OH WELL,
THAT MIGHT LOOK LIKE A LAST NAME.
It doesn't really matter if it doesn't though.
BUT,
DOES SHE HATE HER LAST NAME THAT MUCH?
OR,
RATHER...

22


NATSUKI-SAN HAS GONE HOME ALONE
THE OTHER ONE WAS AN APART-MENT
EVER SINCE I BEGAN TO INVESTI-GATE THAT APART-MENT,
YEAH.
THIS ADDRESS WAS FOR AN ORDINARY HOUSE WHERE A MIDDLE-AGED COUPLE LIVES.

23

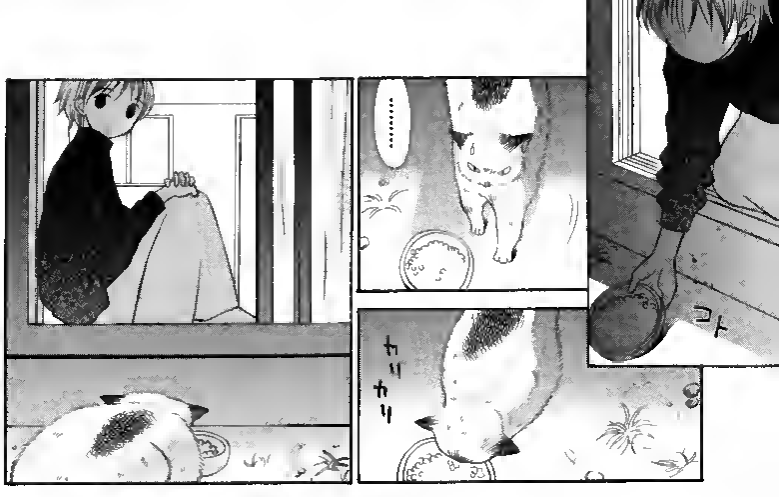
SHE JUST DOESN'T NEED A LAST NAME.
—RATHER THAN HATING HER LAST NAME...

Meow

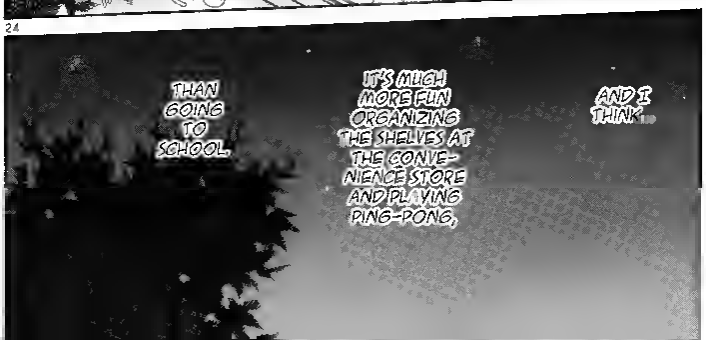
GA GA

フリーデイ

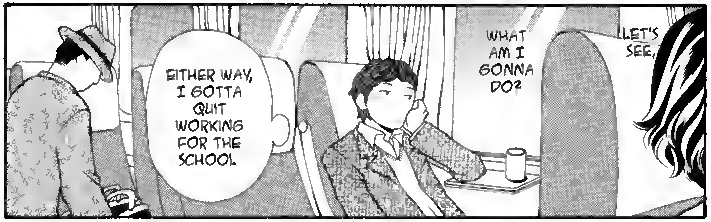
ALL SHE NEEDS IS "HER OWN NAME"

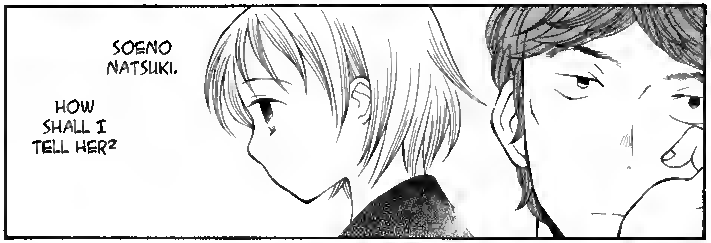

.....
카시카시
그냐

OWNER,
HE ISN'T AS BAD AS I THOUGHT.

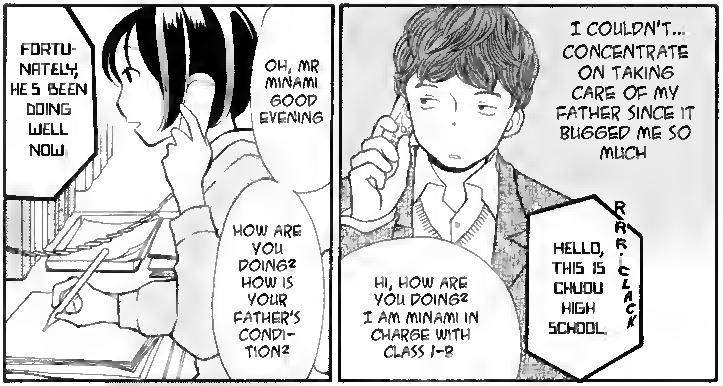

AND I THINK...
IT'S MUCH MORE FUN ORGANIZING THE SHELVES AT THE CONVE-NIENCE STORE AND PLAYING PING-PONG,
THAN GOING TO SCHOOL.

AH, I FINALLY MADE IT.
WE ARE NOW ARRIVING AT YOKOHAMA.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR RIDING WITH US TODAY.

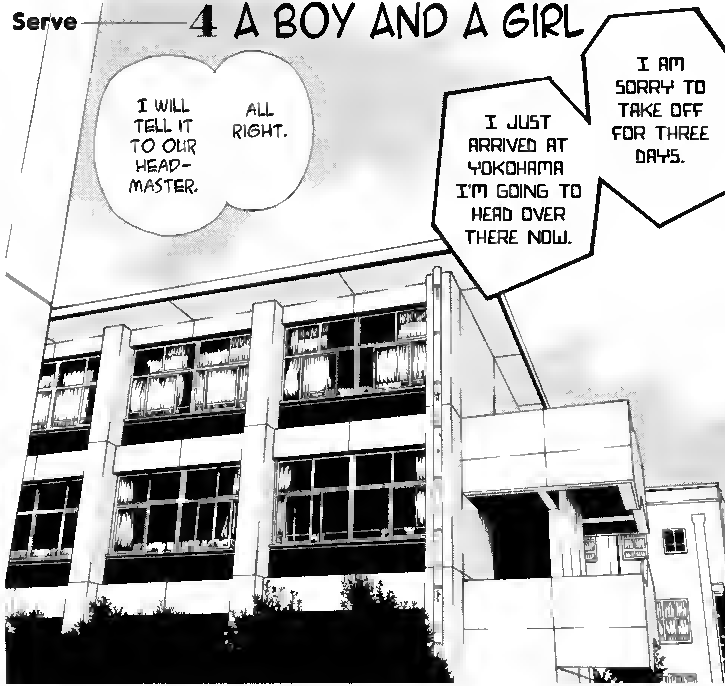

EITHER WAY, I GOTTA QUIT WORKING FOR THE SCHOOL.
WHAT AM I GONNA DO?
LET'S SEE.


SOENO NATSUKI.
HOW SHALL I TELL HER?

YOU CANNOT HANG OUT WITH SUCH A GUY WITHOUT MY PERMISSION
I WON'T FORGIVE YOU...
THE ONE YOU WERE WALKING WITH THE OTHER DAY?
WHO WAS THAT GUY?
ANYWAY...


I COULDN'T... CONCENTRATE ON TAKING CARE OF MY FATHER SINCE IT BUGGED ME SO MUCH
R-R-R-CLACK
HELLO, THIS IS CHUOU HIGH SCHOOL.
HI, HOW ARE YOU DOING? I AM MINAMI IN CHARGE WITH CLASS 1-2
OH, MR MINAMI GOOD EVENING
HOW ARE YOU DOING? HOW IS YOUR FATHER'S CONDITION?
FORTUNATELY, HE'S BEEN DOING WELL NOW.

Serve 4 A BOY AND A GIRL


I AM SORRY TO TAKE OFF FOR THREE DAYS.
I JUST ARRIVED AT YOKOHAMA I'M GOING TO HEAD OVER THERE NOW.
ALL RIGHT.
I WILL TELL IT TO OUR HEAD-MASTER.

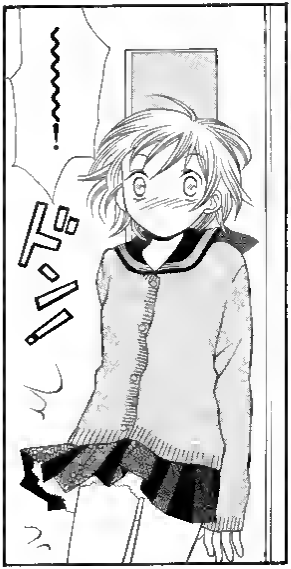
ラバーズ
HI.
I SEE
HOW WERE THEY? DID YOU DO WELL ON THEM?
PLEASE DON'T EVEN ASK THAT
OH, WHAT'S UP HIROMI?
YOU ARE REALLY EARLY TODAY
I HAD MIDTERMS TODAY
NO REGULAR CLASSES
EXCUSE ME, MANAGER
CAN I TAKE A LITTLE NAP IN THE BACKROOM UNTIL MY JOB STARTS?
I WAS UP ALL NIGHT YESTERDAY
I GUESS IT'S OKAY THEN
YAWN
ドサ!
BUT IF THE OWNER COMES BY HE'LL YELL AT YOU.
I'M USED TO IT
ガラ

WELCOME
OH, NATSUKI-CHAN.
WE GOT YOUR S-SIZE UNIFORM.
I PUT IT IN YOUR LOCKER
KOKU
ガラ

4

ガラ
IT SEEMS TO BE JUST RIGHT.
CREAK
ドキッ

UN-
mm
mm
.....
Z
Z
Z
5
.....
THAT SCAR.


ハルヒ
wwww!

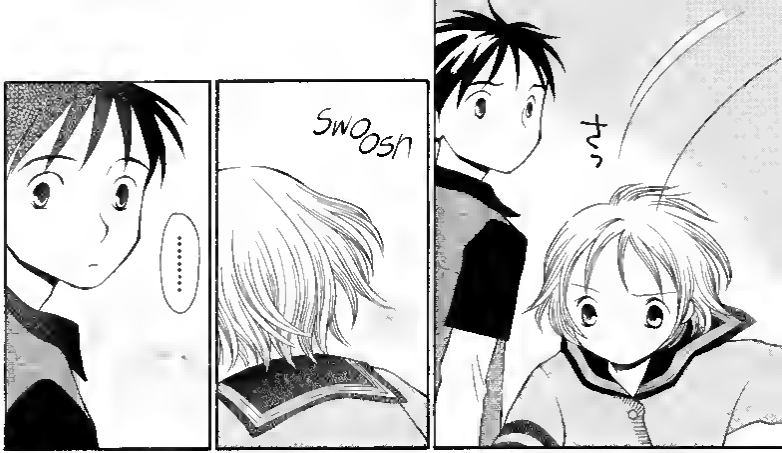
カラ!

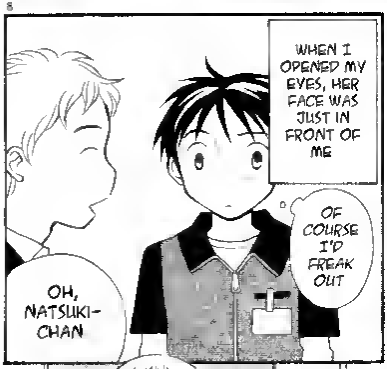
パチ
HM...
Some thing smells like a floral bouquet

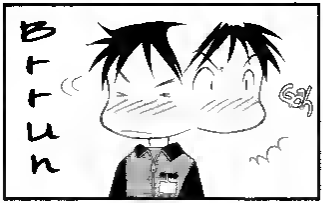
WA-HYA!
WO AH!

...WHAT THE?

IT REALLY LEFT A DEEP CUT TOO
THAT'S PROBABLY FROM WHEN I SCRATCHED HIM
BUT THAT SCAR ON HIS HAND
THUMP
AH-
THAT SURPRISED ME
THUMP
WHY DON'T YOU CHANGE YOUR CLOTHES?
YOU CAN USE THE LOCKER ROOM NOW
ガラ


.....
SWOOSH
Eh?


WHEN I OPENED MY EYES, HER FACE WAS JUST IN FRONT OF ME
OF COURSE I'D FREAK OUT
OH, NATSUKI-CHAN


Brrrun
Eek

WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT EARLIER?
WELCOME

AH GOOD
IT FITS YOU PERFECTLY

EVER SINCE THE INCIDENT OF HER NAME TAG,
EVEN MY MANAGER BEGAN TO CALL HER NATSUKI.
.....
IT LOOKS GOOD ON YOU.
I AM RELIEVED
I WASN'T SURE WHAT WE'D DO IF THE SMALL WAS TOO BIG FOR YOU.
HEY, NATSUKI!
IT SEEMS YOUR UNIFORM FINALLY ARRIVED
SHE'S EVEN MANAGED TO BLEND IN AROUND HERE
AND WHAT'S MORE...
710 YEN PLEASE
OUT OF 1000 YEN...
SHIT, EVERYBODY CALLS HER NATSUKI, NATSUKI.
WELCOME.

AND AS USUAL SHE DOESN'T SAY A SINGLE WORD TO ME.
290 YEN IS YOUR CHANGE
THANK YOU VERY MUCH,
?
AND PLEASE COME AGAIN.

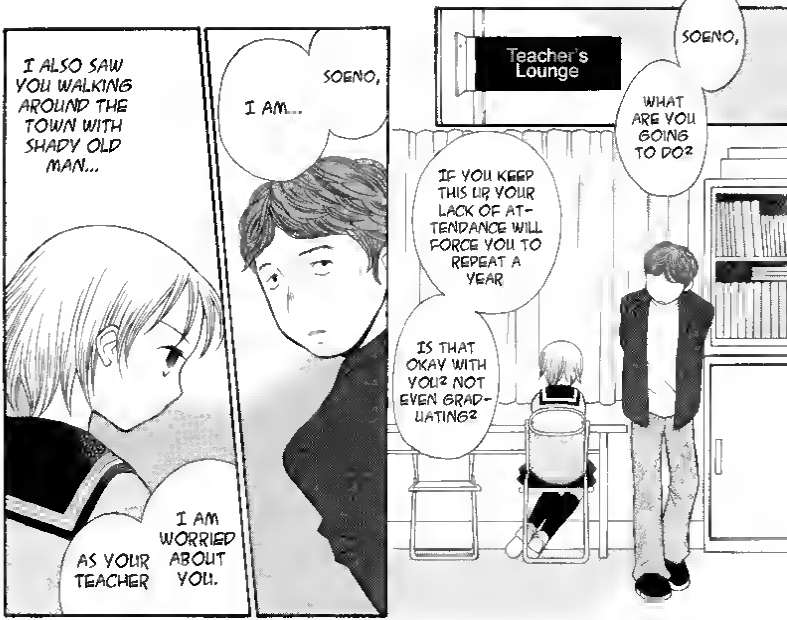
...BUT, ANYWAY
...THAT SCREAM EARLIER...

KYAH!
...WHAT THE HELL IS "WAHYA!"
JUST WHO SCREAMS "WAHYA!"?

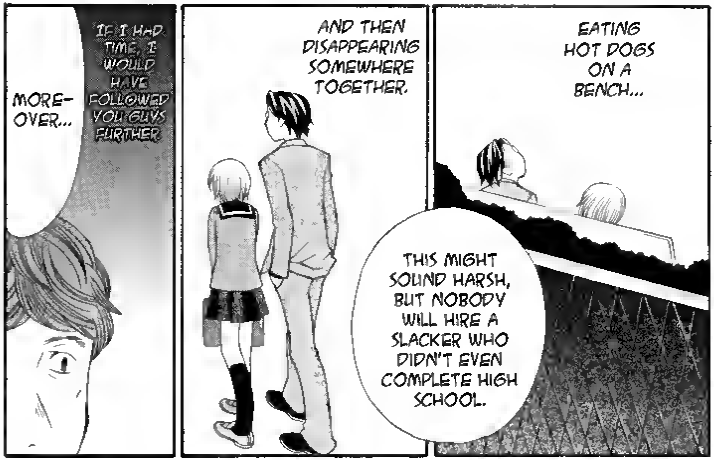
EVEN SU-CHAN (ACTUAL NAME SUGA JYUNYA) SCREAMS "KYA!"
GEEZ, WHAT IS IT NOW?
THAT REALLY PISSES ME OFF!!
HEY, HIROMI, DID YOU SEE THAT JUST NOW?
UH!
V, YEAH
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
KIDS THESE DAYS!
AND HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS TOO!!
REALLY, GEEZ.

Oh, Munenori!
You look super bored... Same feeling as usual
ARE YOU SURE YOU SHAVED YOUR BEARD WELL TODAY?
IT'S ALL SCRATCHY.
OH, IT'S YOU, SU...
I THOUGHT IT WAS GETTING NOISY AROUND HERE.
Aw Munenori Don't tease me
.....
SERI-OUSLY,
SHE IS A WEIRDO.
キンコーン
カンコーン
NORMALLY SHE KEEPS SUCH A STRAIGHT FACE,
BUT SHE SURE DID SHOUT OUT "WAHYA" QUICKLY..
THAT'S WAY TOO DAMN FUNNY

!
SOENO!!
Girl's Bathroom
.....
TURN TO PAGE 150 IN YOUR TEXTBOOKS.
1-B
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
CLASS HAS STARTED ALREADY.
13
.....
ARE YOU TRYING TO SKIP CLASS?
OH WELL,
COME WITH ME
.....
MR. MINAMI ...


Teacher's Lounge
SOENO,
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
IF YOU KEEP THIS UP YOUR LACK OF ATTENDANCE WILL FORCE YOU TO REPEAT A YEAR
IS THAT OKAY WITH YOU? NOT EVEN GRADUATING?
SOENO,
I AM...
I ALSO SAW YOU WALKING AROUND THE TOWN WITH SHADY OLD MAN...
AS YOUR TEACHER
I AM WORRIED ABOUT YOU.

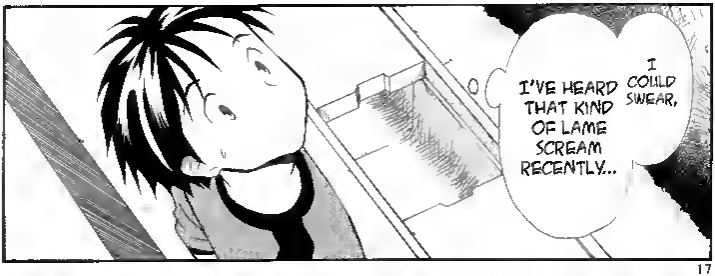
14


EATING HOT DOGS ON A BENCH...
THIS MIGHT SOUND HARSH, BUT NOBODY WILL HIRE A SLACKER WHO DIDN'T EVEN COMPLETE HIGH SCHOOL.
AND THEN DISAPPEARING SOMEWHERE TOGETHER.
MOREOVER...
IF I HAD TIME, I WOULD HAVE FOLLOWED YOU GUYS FURTHER

YOU HAVE HAD SOME TROUBLES IN YOUR FAMILY LIFE.
"ABC CO-OPERATIVE HOUSING ISESAKI LIFE 103"
YOU'VE BEEN LIVING ALONE IN AN APARTMENT APART FROM YOUR PARENTS, HAVEN'T YOU?
AND YOU HAVEN'T REPORTED IT TO THE SCHOOL.
I KNOW.
ALL ABOUT YOU.
WHY DO I KNOW ABOUT THAT?
!

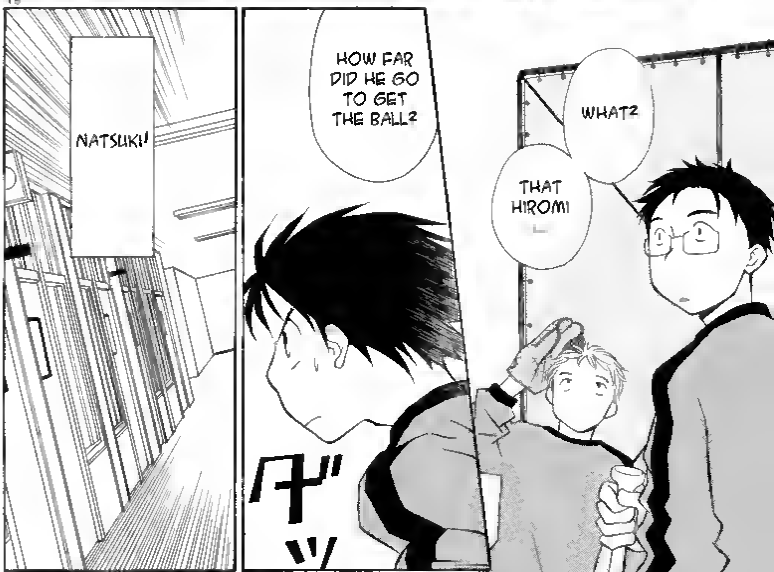
THERE IT GOES.
CATCH IT, HIROMI !!
THERE'S NO WAY I CAN CATCH THAT!!
OH NO!
KA KL UNK
WHERE IS IT?
SHIT!

"WAKYA" 2
WA-KYA !!
OOPS -EE- DAISY
OH, I FOUND IT.


I COULD SWEAR,
I'VE HEARD THAT KIND OF LAME SCREAM RECENTLY...

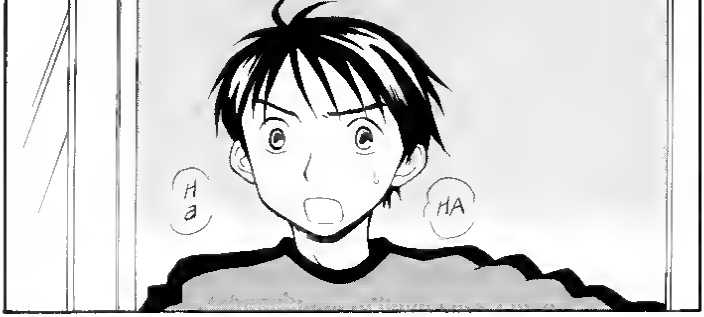
17

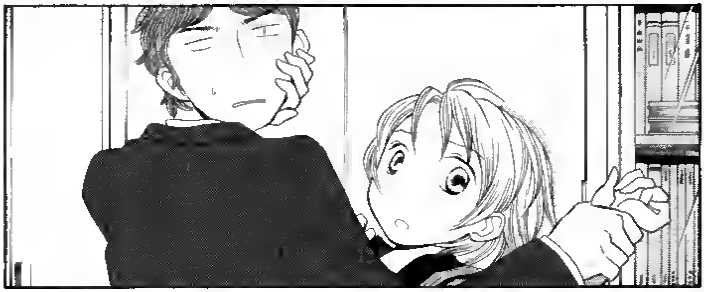
WHAT WAS THAT JUST NOW?
IT CAN'T BE...
BUT...
"WAHY..."
YEA,
IT'S GOTTA BE.

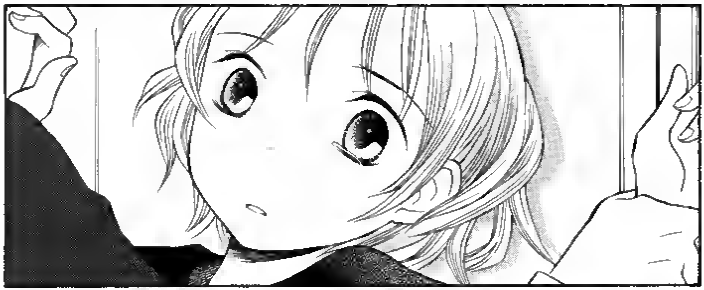

NATSUKI!
HOW FAR DID HE GO TO GET THE BALL?
WHAT?
THAT HIROMI
ダッ

PLEAS-
PLEASE, SOENO!
!
!!
PLEASE!
PLEASE BE QUIET!
PLEASE CALM DOWN. I WON'T HURT YOU.
Teacher's Lounge
WILL YOU PLEASE COME WITH ME?
I HAVE NO LINGERING AFFECTION FOR THIS SCHOOL, BUT I CANNOT STAND LOSING YOU.
I HAVE TO GO BACK TO THE COUNTRY-SIDE TO TAKE OVER MY PARENTS' BUSINESS.
I AM QUITTING MY JOB.

NA-TSU-KI!!
SO, PLEASE! COME WITH ME.
I'VE ALWAYS WATCHED YOU SINCE I WAS IN CHARGE OF YOUR CLASS.
PLEASE?







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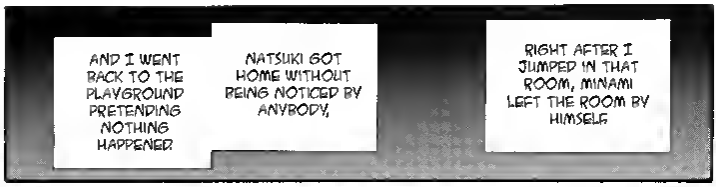
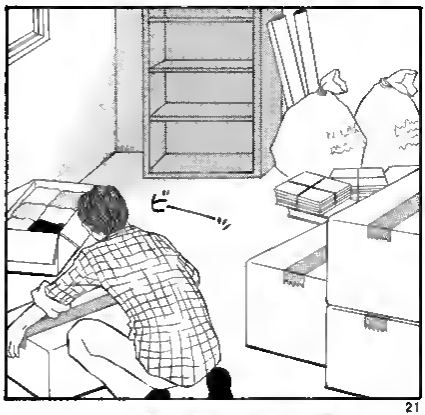
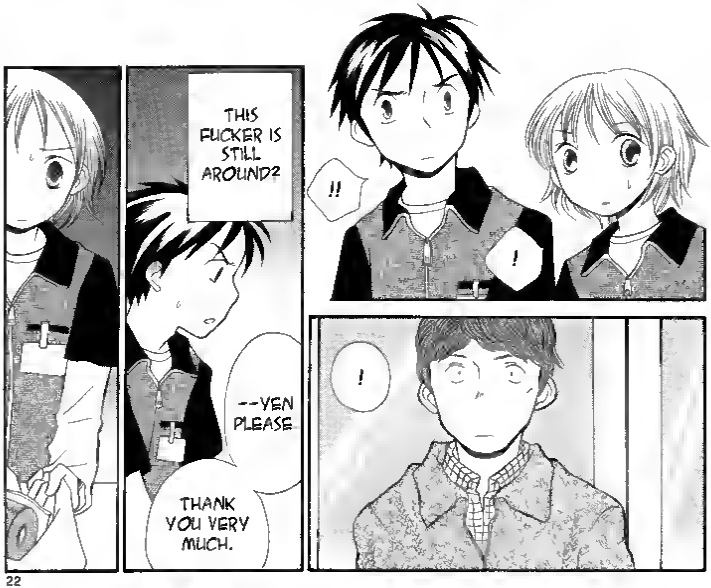
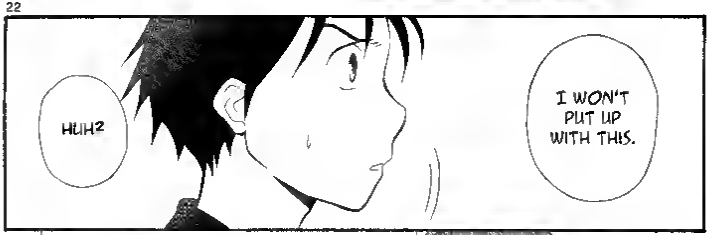

AND I WENT BACK TO THE PLAYGROUND PRETENDING NOTHING HAPPENED
NATSUKI GOT HOME WITHOUT BEING NOTICED BY ANYBODY.
RIGHT AFTER I JUMPED IN THAT ROOM, MINAMI LEFT THE ROOM BY HIMSELF

卓球
カラオケ
AH, WELCO-


ピ"

SHIT, I'M OUT OF PACKING TAPE
ピ"

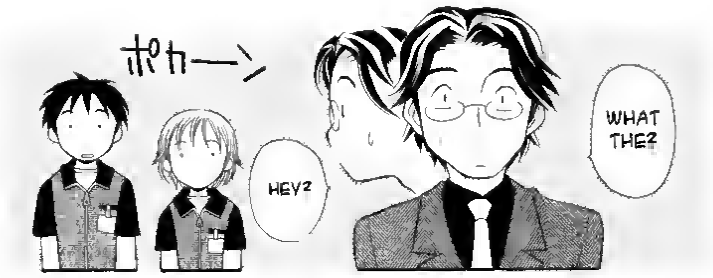

THIS FUCKER IS STILL AROUND?
--YEN PLEASE
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
!!
!
!

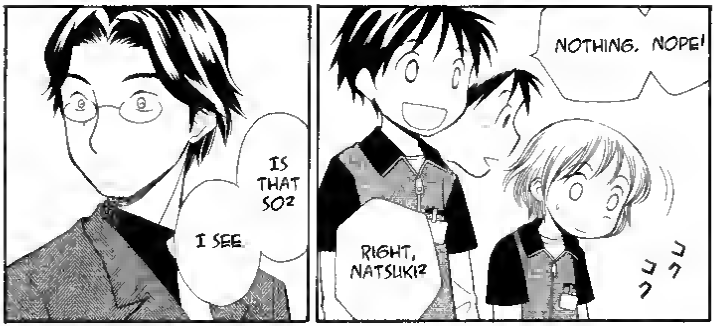

HUH?
I WON'T PUT UP WITH THIS.

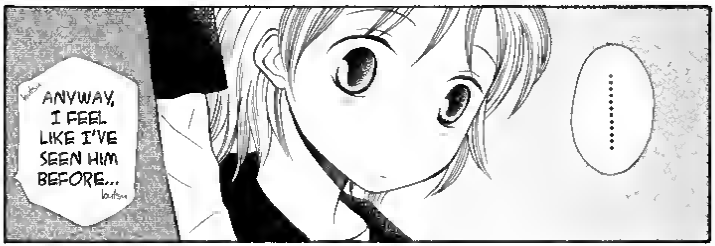
IS THAT HOW SHE TREATS HER CUSTOM-ERS!?
SHE HASN'T SPOKEN A SINGLE WORD AT ALL!
THAT FEMALE WORKER OVER THERE!

I AM TALKING TO THE GIRL!
I AM NOT ASKING YOU!
HEY, APOLOGIZE TO YOUR CUSTOMER!
HOW CAN HE TRY TO PULL THIS SHIT NOW?
I AM VERY SORRY
SHE IS STILL NEW HERE, SO SHE'S NOT USED TO THINGS YET.
WHAT'S WRONG, HIROMI?
OTHERWISE...
SOMETHING WRONG?

TO, TO, TO TOUNOMOTO MUNENORI!
SIR?
WAS ONE OF MY WORKERS RUDE TO YOU, SIR?
THAT WAS MY OLD CLASSMATE FROM HIGH SCHOOL.
HE WAS THE SON OF A MOBSTER
はっ
I SEE, THE MAN WHO WAS WALKING WITH NATSUKI.
I THOUGHT I'D SEEN HIM FROM SOMEWHERE BEFORE...
THAT WAS HIM!!
SO, SO SOENO!
DON'T WORRY! I AM MOVING TODAY!
PLEASE DON'T TELL ANYBODY ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED THE OTHER DAY!!
I WILL NEVER COME BACK AGAIN!
NO! NOTHING!!
NEVER MIND!!
BYE!!


ポカーン
HEY?
WHAT THE?

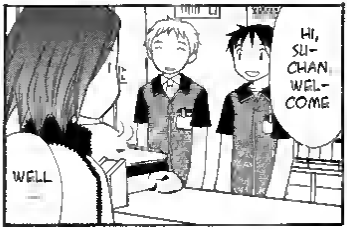

IS THAT SO?
I SEE.
NOTHING. NOPE!
RIGHT, NATSUKI?
フフ
フフ

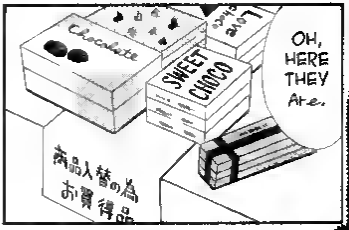

ANYWAY, I FEEL LIKE I'VE SEEN HIM BEFORE...
……

"I AM VERY SORRY."
"SHE IS STILL NEW HERE, SO SHE'S NOT USED TO THINGS YET."

BUT...
IT STILL ANNOYS ME THAT HE JUST THOUGHT I SHOPLIFTED.
HEY, WHY DID YOU SHOPLIFT?
WAITA-MINUTE...
!.....
NATSUKI?
CALL HER...
DID I JUST,
MEH.
OH WELL.
.....

Serve
5
THE MOON IS THE QUEEN OF THE MERCI-LESS NIGHT





2

HER BAR HAS A VALENTINE'S FAIR DURING FEBRUARY.
SHE'LL PASS THEM OUT TO HER CUSTOMERS.
NOT ALL CUSTOMERS CAN GET GODIVA*, RIGHT?
THOSE ARE FOR FIRST-TIME AND OCCASIONAL CUSTOMERS.

*EXPENSIVE CHOCOLATE USUALLY GIVEN AS GIFTS. http://www.godiva.com

もたもた
ERK... NO WAY, I'VE NEVER DONE THIS SORT OF THING BEFORE
REALLY THOUGH, HIROMI!
YOU GOTTA WRAP THOSE BETTER!!
I'M TAKING ALL THE UNSOLD STUFF OFF OF YOUR HANDS SO DON'T COMPLAIN!
Only Su-chan orders us to wrap them with cute ribbons
EVERY YEAR WHEN I WRAP THESE CHOCOLATES I THINK "IT'S THAT TIME OF THE SEASON ALREADY"
VEA VEA
GO TO THE SHELVES, HIROMI!
COULD YOU DO THIS IN PLACE OF HIROMI?
I GUESS IT CAN'T BE HELPED
3
きゅっ
NATSUKI-CHAN!
WOW,
NOTHING LIKE A WOMAN'S TOUCH
YOU ARE FAST AND DAINTY

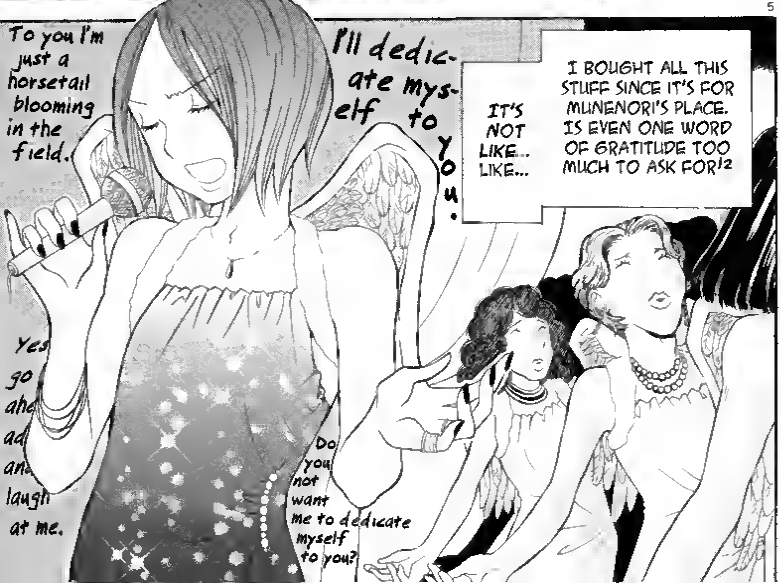
And the way she closes her lips is so...
HER LIPS LOOK LIKE CHERRIES
HER EYE-LASHES ARE LONG
AND HER SKIN IS WHITE
She's...
INDEED
SHE'S SHINING AND BLOOM-ING!
SHIT!
NO MATTER WHAT YOU TRY TO GET RID OF!
GRR...!
SU-!

4

YEAH, I'M GLAD I HIRED HER.
YEA, I THINK SO TOO
SHE'S REALLY A GOD-SEND
Shuffle shuffle
.....
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
You're going off a blocked area.
MUNE NORI!
NATSUKI HAS A KNACK FOR EVERY-THING
YOU ARE REALLY GOOD
OH, IS NATSUKI WRAP-PING THEM?
HEY, I CAME HERE TO BUY THE ANNUAL BATCH OF CHOCOLATES.
HUG

Pub
ヨコハマムーン
WHAT? WHAT IS THIS?
I KNOW I BOUGHT SOME CHOCOLATES SINCE I NEED THEM!
!! STUPID MUNENORI!
MUNENORI...
Cl
en
ch
HUH?
?
HEY,
THE CHOCOLATES ?

5

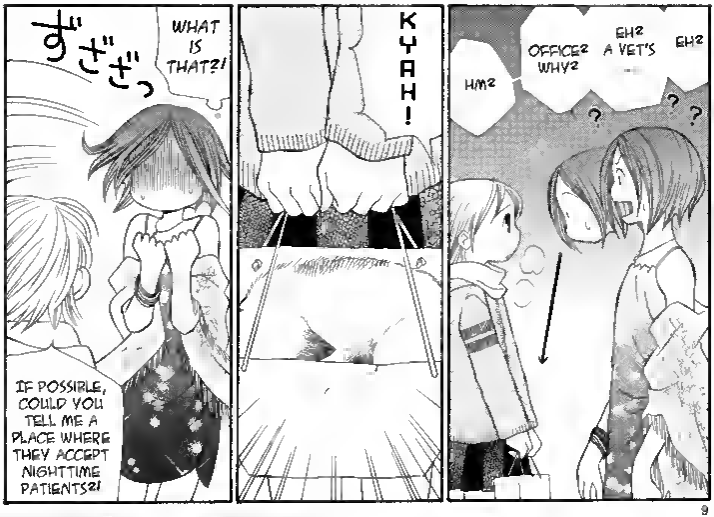

To you I'm just a horsetail blooming in the field.
I'll dedicate myself to you.
IT'S NOT LIKE... LIKE...
I BOUGHT ALL THIS STUFF SINCE IT'S FOR MUNENORI'S PLACE. IS EVEN ONE WORD OF GRATITUDE TOO MUCH TO ASK FOR!?
Yes go ahe ad an laugh at me.
Do you not want me to dedicate myself to you?

WOW!!
YOU ARE AWE-SOME!!
YOU'RE THE BEST, SU-CHAN!
YEAH!!
WHAT A NICE VOICE!
YOUR PATHOS AND EMOTION FILLED THE SONG!!
OH REALLY?
thank you. ♥
SHE'S SO ANNOY-ING... IT'S ALL HER FAULT!
WOOT! WOOT!

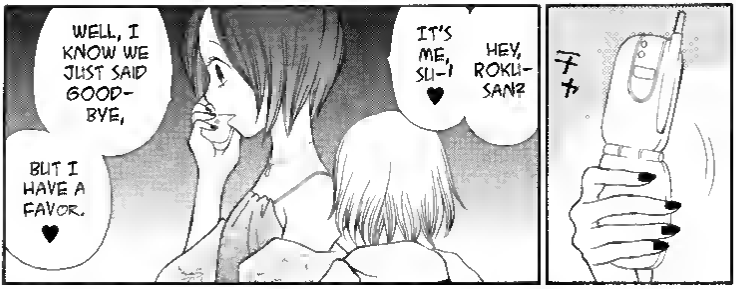
IT'S ALL HER FAULT, THAT LITTLE BITCH!
SHE SWOOPED IN AFTER ME AND JUST KEEPS TAKING THINGS AWAY
GOOD WORK TODAY
PLEASE BE SAFE, NATSUKI-CHAN
カラオケ

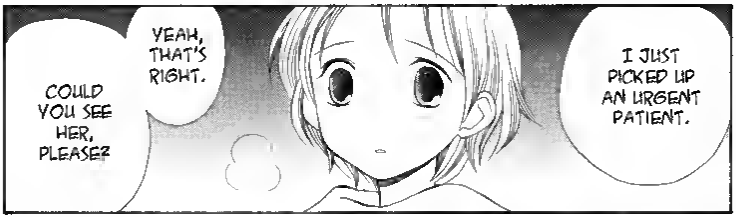
!
WHY NOT GO OUT WITH ME NEXT TIME?
PLEASE COME AND VISIT US AGAIN, ROKU-SAN.
THANK YOU, TODAY. ♡
OH, I'M SO TIRED.
LET'S GO INSIDE
ポーポー
SHUT UP DAYS LIKE THIS HAPPEN SOMETIMES!
ARE YOU FEELING DOWN?
WAIT A MINUTE, SU- WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU TODAY?
LET'S GO.
HUH?

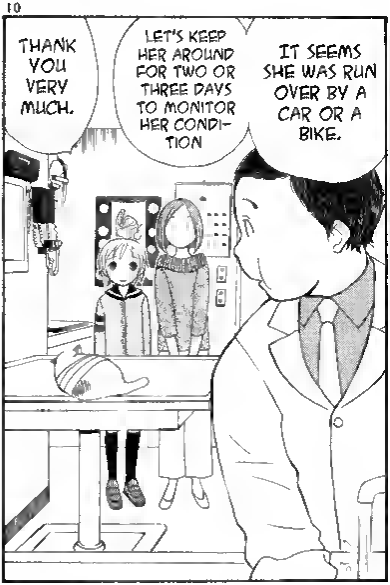
!!
キョロキョロ
タッタッ
SU-SAN.
W, W, W, WHY
WHY IS SHE IN THIS KIND OF PLACE AT THIS TIME OF NIGHT?
And in her school uniform no less...
8
ARE THERE ANY VETERINARIANS AROUND HERE?
HUH?
Excuse me?
EXCUSE ME!
UM,
ANYWAY, LET'S JUST STOP THINKING AND IGNORE HER.
AH GEEZ, WHAT IS IT NOW?
Aoyon


ずざっ
WHAT IS THAT?!
IF POSSIBLE, COULD YOU TELL ME A PLACE WHERE THEY ACCEPT NIGHTTIME PATIENTS?!
KYAH!
HM?
OFFICE? WHY?
EH? A VET'S
EH?

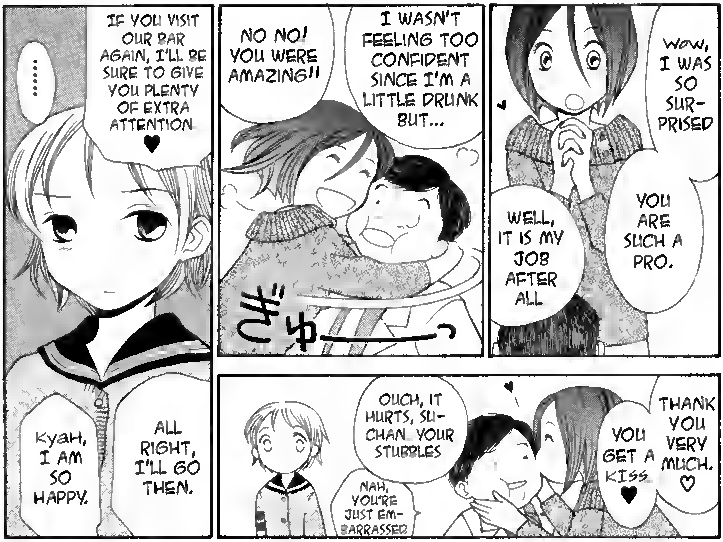
IF YOU KNOW, PLEASE TELL ME!
PLEASE!
……


WELL, I KNOW WE JUST SAID GOOD-BYE,
BUT I HAVE A FAVOR. ♥
IT'S ME, SU-I ♥
HEY, ROKU-SAN?
ピカ

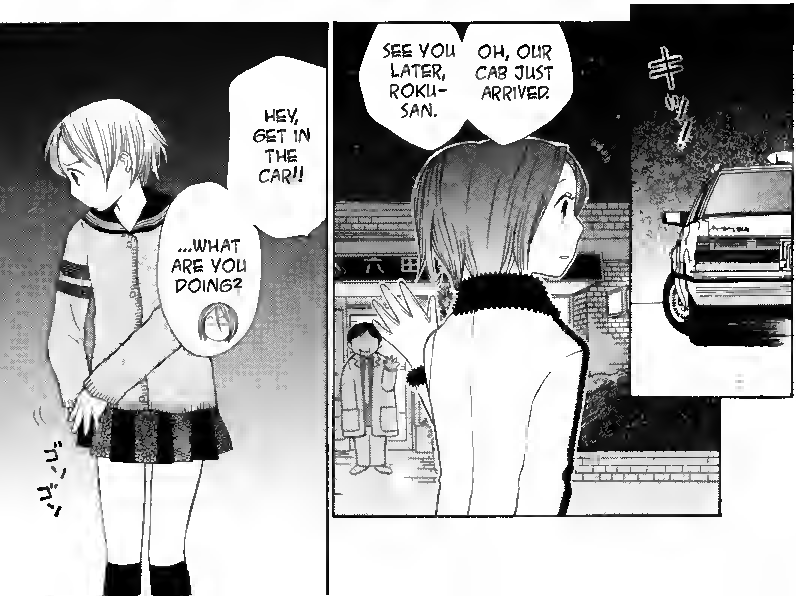

I JUST PICKED UP AN URGENT PATIENT.
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT.
COULD YOU SEE HER, PLEASE?


IT SEEMS SHE WAS RUN OVER BY A CAR OR A BIKE.
LET'S KEEP HER AROUND FOR TWO OR THREE DAYS TO MONITOR HER CONDI-TION
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

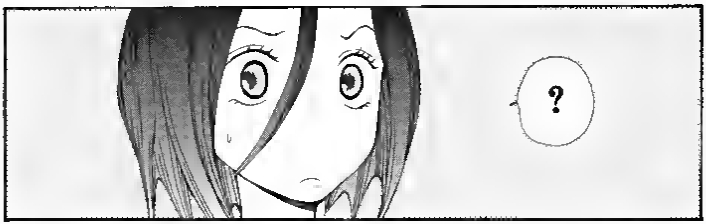
六田動物病院
THAT SHOULD DO IT.


IF YOU VISIT OUR BAR AGAIN, I'LL BE SURE TO GIVE YOU PLENTY OF EXTRA ATTENTION ♥
.....
Kyah, I AM SO HAPPY.
ALL RIGHT, I'LL GO THEN.
NO NO! YOU WERE AMAZING!!
I WASN'T FEELING TOO CONFIDENT SINCE I'M A LITTLE DRUNK BUT...
ぎゅーっ
Wow, I WAS SO SUR-PRISED
YOU ARE SUCH A PRO.
WELL, IT IS MY JOB AFTER ALL
NAH, YOU'RE JUST EM-BARRASSED
OUCH, IT HURTS, SU-CHAN. YOUR STUBBLES
THANK YOU VERY MUCH. ♡
YOU GET A KISS ♥

11


SEE YOU LATER, ROKU-SAN.
OH, OUR CAB JUST ARRIVED.
HEY, GET IN THE CAR!!
...WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
ガン ガン

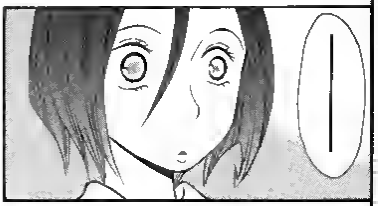
.....

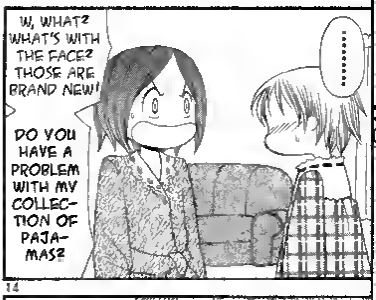

?

YOU LOST YOUR APARTMENT KEY!?
HUH?

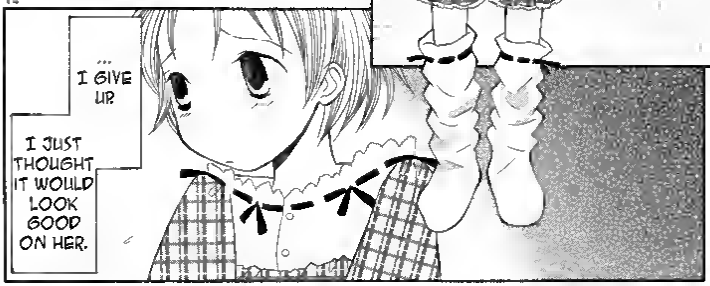
IT'S NOT MY DAY TODAY!
NO WAY!
I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M ALLOWING THE LITTLE MONKEY TO STAY WITH ME
.....

HEY, CHANGE INTO THIS!
Thu mp
THUMP?
ARE YOU... SCARED OF ME OR SOMETHING?
ゴゴゴゴゴ
ゴゴゴゴ
THE ASSERTION OF THE NATURAL-BORN GAY MAN!
I AM NOT BRAGGING BUT I'VE NEVER HAD AN E**CTION IN FRONT OF A LADY!!
ESPE-CIALLY NOT IN FRONT OF A LITTLE BRAT LIKE YOU!
N,
NO, THAT'S NOT IT!
THIS IS MY FIRST TIME STAYING AT SOMEONE'S HOUSE.
SO I'M NERVOUS.
AND I... I...
...I'VE NEVER EVEN THOUGHT OF YOU AS A MAN.

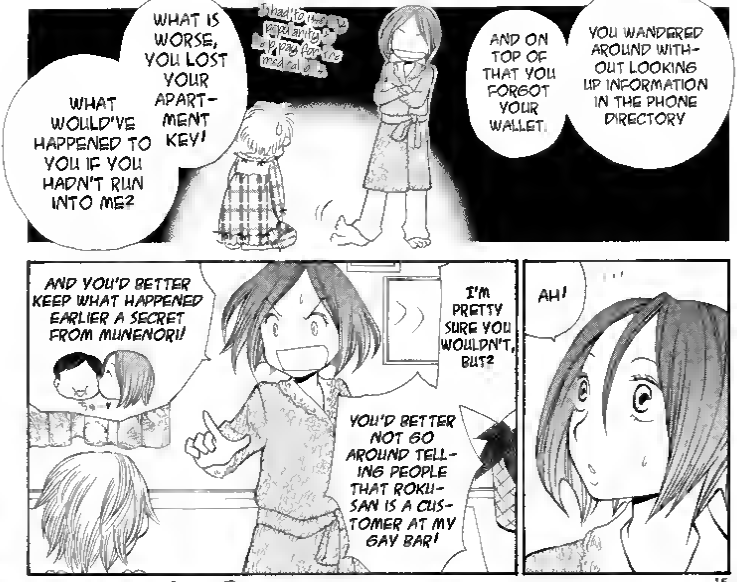



W, WHAT? WHAT'S WITH THE FACE? THOSE ARE BRAND NEW!
DO YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH MY COLLECTION OF PAJAMAS?

WHAT?
IF YOU SAY SUCH A THING,
I SUDDENLY FEEL THAT IT IS POINTLESS.


...
I GIVE UP.
I JUST THOUGHT IT WOULD LOOK GOOD ON HER.

WELL, THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING TODAY
Y-YEAH, NO KIDDING!

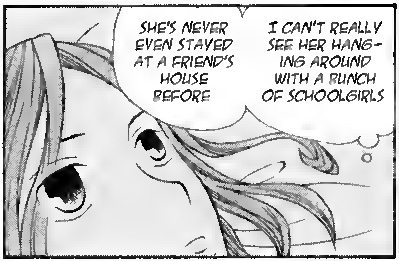

WHAT WOULD'VE HAPPENED TO YOU IF YOU HADN'T RUN INTO ME?
WHAT IS WORSE, YOU LOST YOUR APARTMENT KEY!
I had to go to work in my pajamas and my hair is a mess!
AND ON TOP OF THAT YOU FORGOT YOUR WALLET.
YOU WANDERED AROUND WITHOUT LOOKING UP INFORMATION IN THE PHONE DIRECTORY
AND YOU'D BETTER KEEP WHAT HAPPENED EARLIER A SECRET FROM MUNENORI!
I'M PRETTY SURE YOU WOULDN'T, BUT?
YOU'D BETTER NOT GO AROUND TELLING PEOPLE THAT ROKU-SAN IS A CUSTOMER AT MY GAY BAR!
AH!

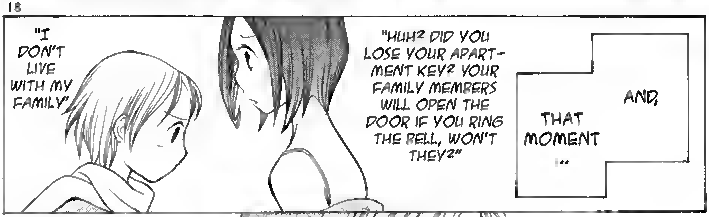
WHO DO YOU THINK I DID IT FOR!?
HUH?
EVEN IF THAT'S YOUR JOB, I THINK THAT WAS A BIT MUCH.
IF IT'S SOMETHING YOU CAN'T EVEN TELL THE ONE YOU LOVE ABOUT THEN WHY EVEN DO IT TO BEGIN WITH?
.....

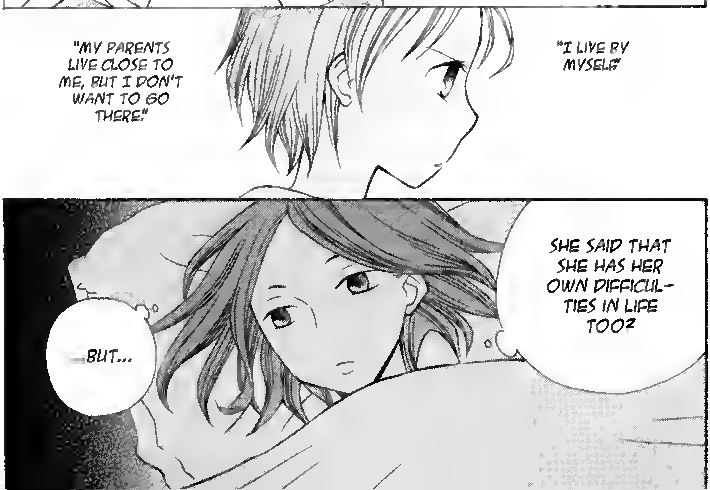
AND,
I AM NOT TREATED WELL AT ALL!
THE LIFE OF A HIGH SCHOOL GIRL IS SHORT ANYWAY
GOOD LUCK WITH THAT
YOU CAN SAY ALL KINDS OF NEAT AND TIDY THINGS AND BE TREATED WELL FOR NOW
I SEE, I SEE.
...PEOPLE SAY HORRIBLE THINGS WITHOUT EVEN CARING.
BEING CALLED ANTISOCIAL, UNCUTE OR EVEN UGLY OVER TRIVIAL MATTERS...
AND, BEING A HIGH SCHOOL GIRL ISN'T EASY!
I'M SORRY.
WHAT I SAID BEFORE CROSSED THE LINE.
BUT,
ALSO, I DEFINITELY WON'T TELL THE OWNER ABOUT THAT.
MAKE THIS FACE WITH THE THOUGHT OF MAKING PEOPLE LIKE ME!
BUT I NEVER

EH?
YEAH, I WOULD PREFER IT THAT WAY
AND YOU!
I'M JUST GOING TO BLURT THIS OUT BUT COULD YOU DO SOMETHING ABOUT YOUR SULKING FACE AT "RUBBERS 7"
I DON'T CARE WHETHER OR NOT YOU WANT TO BE LIKED!
BUT, I CAN'T STAND SOMEONE WORKING AT MY LOVE'S STORE WHO CAN'T EVEN GREET CUSTOMERS PROPERLY!
APART FROM THAT, SOME SAY "RUBBERS 7" HAS A BAD REPUTATION BECAUSE IT'S CONNECTED TO THE MOB
17
THAT'S BECAUSE THEY PLAY PING PONG..
THE TOUNOMOTO GROUP HAS BEGUN TO DWINDLE EVER SINCE MUNENORI TOOK OVER,
BUT AT LEAST HE HASN'T GIVEN UP ANYTHING
THAT'S WHY SERIOUS MANAGEMENT IS IMPORTANT!
UNDERSTAND? IF YOU THINK YOU OWE ME SOMETHING BECAUSE OF TODAY'S INCIDENT THEN
FOR ME!
STOP DRAGGING MUNENORI'S NAME THROUGH THE MUD!

"THIS IS MY FIRST TIME STAYING AT SOMEONE'S HOUSE"

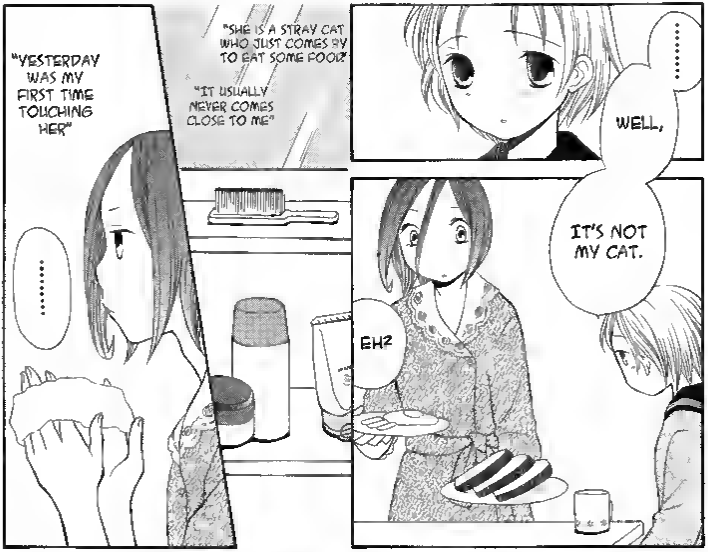

SHE'S NEVER EVEN STAYED AT A FRIEND'S HOUSE BEFORE
I CAN'T REALLY SEE HER HANGING AROUND WITH A BUNCH OF SCHOOLGIRLS

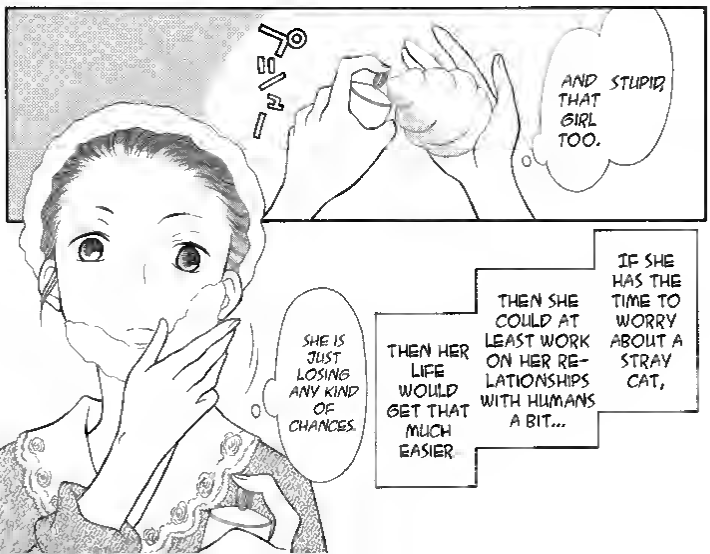

"I DON'T LIVE WITH MY FAMILY"
"HUH? DID YOU LOSE YOUR APARTMENT KEY? YOUR FAMILY MEMBERS WILL OPEN THE DOOR IF YOU RING THE BELL, WON'T THEY?"
AND, THAT MOMENT ...


"MY PARENTS LIVE CLOSE TO ME, BUT I DON'T WANT TO GO THERE."
"I LIVE BY MYSELF."
...BUT...
SHE SAID THAT SHE HAS HER OWN DIFFICULTIES IN LIFE TOO?

IT'S THE SAME ...
FOR EVERY-BODY.
ROKU-SAN, I REALLY LIKE YOU, CHUUUUU ♡
STOP DRAGGING MUNENORI'S NAME THROUGH THE MUD!
SU-SAN LOVES THE OWNER...
BUT SHE ALSO KISSES HER CUSTOMERS CASUALLY
IT MAKES SENSE IN MY HEAD,
BUT I JUST CAN'T UN-DERSTAND THAT
BUT, IT'S FINE WITH ME
I WILL DEFI-NITELY GIVE MY KISSES AND AFFECTION,
TO ONE PERSON ONLY
YOU CAN SAY ALL KINDS OF NEAT AND TIDY THINGS.
.....
—

NATSUKI,
DO YOU HAVE TO WORK TODAY?
20
DO YOU HAVE TO WORK, OR NOT?
HUH?
AH...
NOPE.
"natsuki"
"natsuki"
THEN, STOP BY MY HOUSE AFTER SCHOOL.
YOU WANT TO SEE YOUR CAT, DON'T YOU?
AND WE WILL GO TO THE PET SHOP ON THE WAY HOME.
HUH?
WHY?
WHY? WE GOTTA BUY A CAGE FOR YOUR CAT.
NOBODY EXCEPT FOR YOU WOULD CARRY YOUR PET IN A PAPER BAG.


"YESTERDAY WAS MY FIRST TIME TOUCHING HER"
"SHE IS A STRAY CAT WHO JUST COMES BY TO EAT SOME FOOD"
"IT USUALLY NEVER COMES CLOSE TO ME"
.....
WELL,
IT'S NOT MY CAT.
EH?


AND STUPID, THAT GIRL TOO.
IF SHE HAS THE TIME TO WORRY ABOUT A STRAY CAT,
THEN SHE COULD AT LEAST WORK ON HER RELATIONSHIPS WITH HUMANS A BIT...
THEN HER LIFE WOULD GET THAT MUCH EASIER
SHE IS JUST LOSING ANY KIND OF CHANCES.

IT'S REALLY EASY,
SINCE ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS SMILE.
JUST...
JUST, SMILE WITH THAT PRETTY FACE!
I CAN'T BE-LIEVE I JUST SAID THAT.
... OH,
I DIDN'T WANT TO ACCEPT IT.
YEAH YEAH, SHE'S BEAUTI-FUL.
SHE IS SUCH A GORGEOUS GIRL!
I WILL ACCEPT THAT!
I'M NOT TOO BAD IF I DO SAY SO MYSELF BUT...!
I CANNOT COMPETE AGAINST THE REAL THING!!
RIGHT!?
YEA, BUT,
.....

WEL-COME..
AH, SU-CHAN.
I WON'T GIVE UP YET!
THE SEAT FOR RUBBERS 7'S IDOL IS STILL!!
カラオケ
7
ツカツカ

23

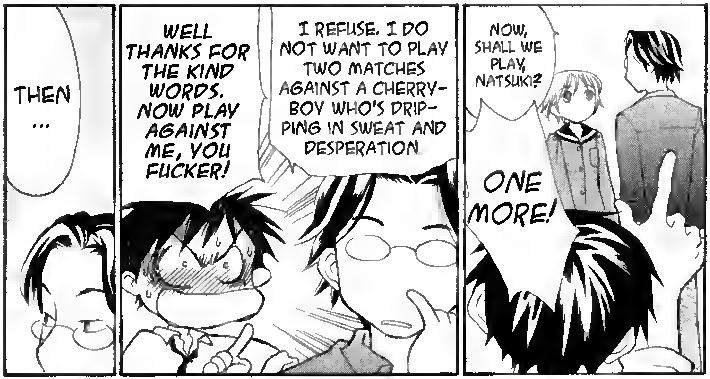
EHH!?
WEL-COME
NAT-SUKI.
HUH?
EH?
I COULDN'T HEAR YOU.
カッ!

JUST A LITTLE BIT MORE!
WEL-COME!
ONCE AGAIN!
WEL-COME
YOUR VOICE IS STILL SMALL!
WEL-COME!

He He
I KNEW YOU COULD DO IT IF YOU TRIED.

COME ON. JUST COME ON!
ARE YOU READY, HIROMI?
カッ
HERE IT COMES!
カッ
コッ
SHIT!
AAH!
HA!
カッ
コッ
BASTARD!
カッ
コッ
HA!
SHIT!

Serve 6
FATE OF FEELINGS


NOW, SHALL WE PLAY, NATSUKI?
ONE MORE!
I REFUSE. I DO NOT WANT TO PLAY TWO MATCHES AGAINST A CHERRY-BOY WHO'S DRIPPING IN SWEAT AND DESPERATION
WELL THANKS FOR THE KIND WORDS. NOW PLAY AGAINST ME, YOU FUCKER!
THEN ...

HUH? ME?
IF YOU CAN PLAY AGAINST SU IN A 3 GAME MATCH AND WIN ALL 3, I'LL PLAY AGAINST YOU.
HUH? SU KNOWS HOW TO PLAY PING-PONG?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
SU, IT'S FINE. I'LL GIVE YOU A HANDICAP. ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS WIN ONE GAME.
BACK IN HIGH SCHOOL, SU WAS GOOD ENOUGH TO HELP ME CARRY THE PING-PONG TEAM.
NO, THERE'S NO WAY. I HAVEN'T EVEN HELD A RACKET FOR A LONG TIME...
AND ...

YAAAAAH!
AL-RIGHT!
I ALWAYS SEEM TO GO BACK TO MY HIGH SCHOOL DAYS WHENEVER I PLAY PING-PONG
Yow! #nina-reading!
AH...
BACK THEN YOU WERE A HANDSOME YOUNG LAD IN A STIFF COLLARED SHIRT.
4
I LOST...
WHAT'S WORSE IS I LOST 2 TO 1 LOSING TO SU WHO HASN'T EVEN PLAYED IN YEARS
BUT MAN, IT'S NOT LOOKING TOO GOOD FOR YOU, HIROMI
ah ah ah
IF YOU WERE BEATEN BY SU-,
THEN IT'S...
...JUST A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE NATSUKI BEATS YOU.

HEY!
WHY DON'T WE FIND OUT FOR CERTAIN RIGHT NOW?
YEAH, YEAH YOU GUYS HAVEN'T PLAYED TOGETHER SINCE SHE CAME TO RUBBERS 7.
TIME FOR THE SECOND MATCH TO START...
WHAT DO YOU THINK, NATSUKI?
WHY NOT SETTLE THINGS WITH A LITTLE REVENGE... DON'T HOLD BACK.
.....

UGH, WELL...
...I JUST PLAYED WITH TWO PEOPLE, AND I'M AFRAID I MIGHT NOT HAVE THE STAMINA FOR...
WHY THE HELL AM I THINKING OF AN EXCUSE NOT TO PLAY?

I AM SURE I WILL WIN!
I'M GOING TO WIN. OF COURSE I'LL WIN!
NATSUKI, HERE IS YOUR RACKET
BUT, WHAT IF ...
NO! I CAN'T LOSE TO HER... ESPECIALLY NOT TO HER.. I CANNOT LOSE!
I...

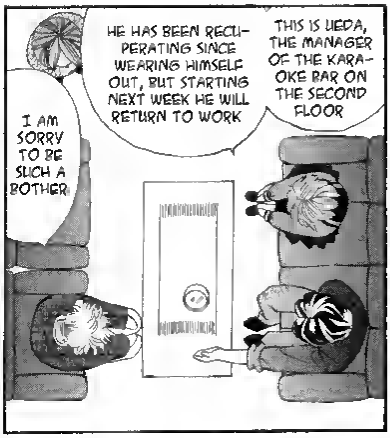
WHAM
SHUT THE FUCK UP AND FOLLOW ME!!
I SAID LET GO OF ME!
LET GO OF ME!
BAM
WHAT'S WRONG? IT'S PRETTY NOISY DOWN-STAIRS.
BUT THE NOISE SEEMS TO BE COMING FROM THE SECOND FLOOR KARAOKE BAR INSTEAD OF THE FIRST FLOOR
YASU-CHAN'S IN CHARGE OF THE SECOND FLOOR, ISN'T HE?
HEY,
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, YASU?
UEDA?
IT'S YOU, UEDA.
STOP TRYING TO GET AWAY, YOU LITTLE PUNK!

YEAH, I'M DOING WELL. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
ARE YOU FEELING ALRIGHT?
WHAT'S GOING ON? I THOUGHT YOU'D BE HERE NEXT WEEK
WOW!
MY PRINCE.*
WHEN I SAW YASU STRUGGLING WITH THESE PUNKS
I FIGURED I WOULD GET MY BODY USED TO THINGS WITH A LITTLE WALK AND I JUST CAME BY TO CHECK THINGS OUT
LISTEN TO ME, MY BOSS. THOSE BASTARDS WERE.....
No, Su-san and Natsuki-chan are there. It makes it difficult to say that, hey.
*WAKA = PRINCE, A TERM OF REVERENCE AND ENDEARMENT SINCE HE'S ADDRESSING HIS MOB BOSS
Wow! These ugly-looking punks were...
THESE LITTLE SHITS WERE ENGAGING IN
IMPURE SEXUAL ACTIONS!
7
ON TOP OF THAT, THEY BROUGHT THEIR OWN FOOD INSTEAD OF BUYING IT DOWNSTAIRS AT RUBBERS 7 LIKE THEY SHOULD HAVE!
HUH?

HERE YOU GO.
W-WHAT?
すぃ
CUSTOMERS.
I guess we'll just be waiting here okay for you.
WELL, I GUESS I'LL SKIP THE DETAILED EXPLANATION AND JUST SAY THAT THIS IS HOW WE SETTLE THINGS AROUND HERE
HUH?
A SMALL FRY LIKE THIS SHOULD BE JUST RIGHT FOR YOU RIGHT NOW.
HEY
YOU PLAY THEM.
AND HIROMI,
NICE AND QUICK, PLEASE.
SO PLAY AND LOSE
DON'T WORRY EVEN IF YOU LOSE I MIGHT LET YOU OFF WITH JUST CLEANING THE BATHROOMS.
Stupid creature like you aren't even good enough to take on as part-time workers!
NOT AGAIN!
NO MATTER HOW MUCH OF A SLUMP YOU'RE IN RIGHT NOW IF YOU CAN'T AT LEAST DO THAT THEN YOU'RE JUST A JOKE
OH, AND YOU'D BETTER SHUT HIM OUT COMPLETELY.

THEY SEEM TO GO TO THE SAME SCHOOL AS YOU AS WELL!
Hahaha
OH WELL, THIS SHOULD BE A GOOD MATCH FOR YOU.
THE COUPLE CAUGHT FOOLING AROUND IN THE KARAOKE ROOM IS GOING TO BE PUNISHED BY SINGLE HIROMI.
HAHAHAHA! DO YOUR BEST!
We'll be chatting in the office.. ♥
u-umm
TOCK!
PREPA-RE YOUR-SELVES
I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU FOR A WHILE, MY PRINCE.

NAH, NOT ESPECIALLY.
HAS ANYTHING CHANGED SINCE I'VE BEEN GONE, MY PRINCE?
SO THE STORE AND THE GROUP ARE BOTH DOING WELL?
I GUESS SO.


HE HAS BEEN RECUPERATING SINCE WEARING HIMSELF OUT, BUT STARTING NEXT WEEK HE WILL RETURN TO WORK
THIS IS UEDA, THE MANAGER OF THE KARAOKE BAR ON THE SECOND FLOOR
I AM SORRY TO BE SUCH A BOTHER

...THE OUTCAST SON OF SUGA GROUP, SUGA JUNYA!!
... RATHER ...
OH, HERE COMES EVIL ONE...
MUNENORI IS NOT GONNA MARRY ANYBODY!!

THEN...
THAT'S GOOD I'M RELIEVED TO HEAR THAT
WHAT KIND OF OMINOUS THINGS ARE YOU SAYING ON ARRIVING HERE, YOU DEATH-DODGER?!!
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS TO FIND A WIFE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND PRODUCE A FINE HEIR TO THE TOUNOMOTO HOUSE.

IF HE DOES MARRY, HE'LL ADOPT A CHILD!
AND HE'LL BE WITH ME!
ARE YOU STILL SPEWING THAT NONSENSE?
AS LONG AS PEOPLE LIKE YOU ARE AROUND, MY PRINCE WILL NEVER FIND ANYONE SUITABLE FOR HIM!!
GO HOME! THERE'S NOBODY AROUND HERE WHO'LL PLAY WITH YOUR ASSHOLE!
WHAT!? YOU DIABETIC OLD MAN!! STOP PISSING FOAM!
STOP THAT, BOTH OF YOU!
IT'S ALWAYS THE SAME WHEN YOU GET CLOSER
HIS IS NO TIME FOR A SWEARING MATCH!
NATSUKI IS HERE!
...PFF
PFFT
NO, I WAS JUST..
WHAT? EVEN YOU, MUNEMORI! YOU WERE USING WORDS LIKE "CHERRY BOY" AND "FOOLING AROUND."
SHUT UP!!
I AM SORRY, NATSUKI

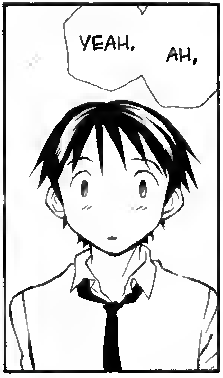
YOU'RE CALLED SO MANY DIFFERENT NAMES. MUNENORI, BOSS AND OLD MAN ...
OWNER,
I'VE EVER HEARD SOMEONE BE CALLED "PRINCE"
OTHER THAN ON TV, THAT'S THE FIRST TIME
NATSUKI IS...
!!!

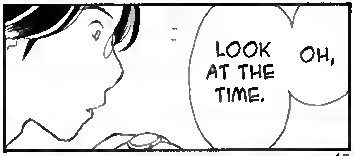
THE VICTORY GOES TO HIROMI WITH 2 WINS IN A ROW!
11-0 HIROMI!
WOW!
EXCUSE ME, YASU-SAN. I'LL LEAVE THIS MATTER TO YOU.
GET READY, YOU LITTLE PUNKS. NOW YOU'RE GONNA CLEAN ALL THE TOILETS IN THIS BUILDING UNTIL I CAN SEE MYSELF IN THEM
GOOD, THEN IT'S SET-TLED
I PLAYED A PERFECT GAME, JUST LIKE YOU WANTED.
I DIDN'T MISS A SINGLE POINT.
HEY!!
HEY, OLD MA...
カチャ!
DASH
HEY, WAIT, HIROMI!
HEY, DID YOU SEE THAT?

Oh!
.....

HAHAHA, WHY ARE YOU LAUGHING SO HARD TO YOURSELF NATSUKI?
Such a weird, little girl!
IS IT THAT STRANGE TO BE CALLED "PRINCEZ".
THAT'S A LITTLE DEPRESSING.
OH,
DID YOU FINISH YOUR GAME?

THAT'S HIROMI AND NATSUKI. THEY ARE BOTH PART-TIME WORKERS FOR RUBBERS 7 DOWNSTAIRS. THEY GET TO PLAY AGAINST ME WHEN I WANT TO KILL TIME.
THE BOY AND THE GIRL, WHO ARE THEY?
BOW
OH, IN PING-PONG.


YEAH.
AH,


LOOK AT THE TIME.
OH,

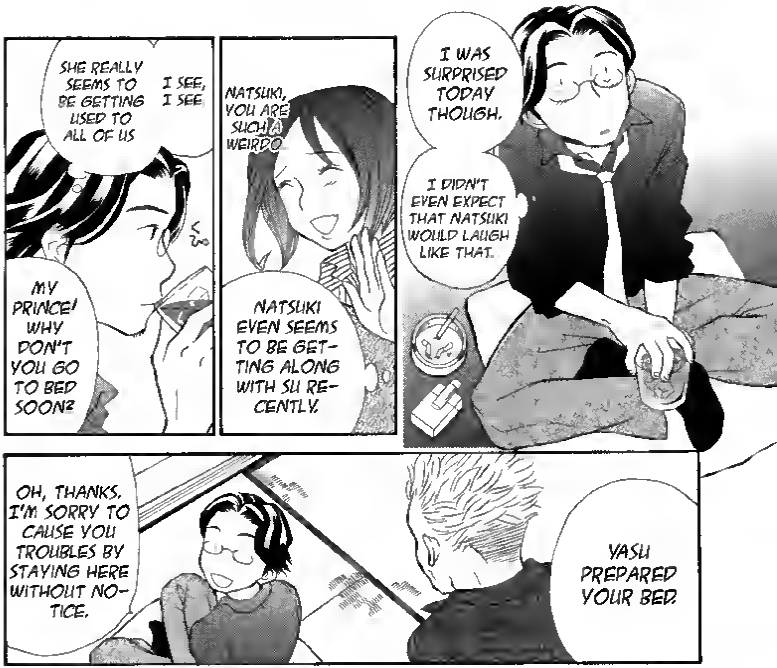
ON YOUR WAY HOME DROP NATSUKI OFF
HIROMI,
HUH?

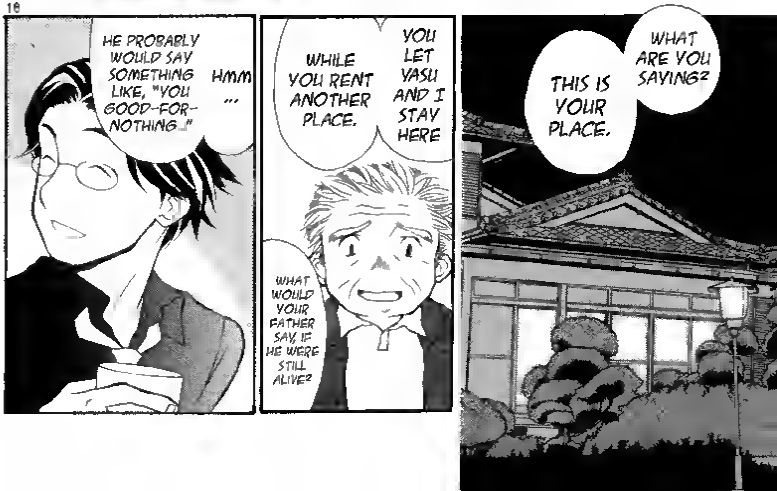
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU JUST SAID KID-NAPPER
"Not as many people walk around that area at this time of night so you'd better take Natsuki home! If she runs into a kidnapper it'll be on your head!"

STOP
I WILL BE FINE HERE.
HUH?
MY HOUSE IS OVER THERE
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
OVER THERE? AROUND THAT CORNER?
IT'S STILL KINDA FAR.
IT'S ALRIGHT
IT'S NOT ALRIGHT AT ALL

IF I DON'T DROP YOU OFF AT YOUR HOUSE, THE OLD MAN WILL BE PISSED!
...
I REALLY MEAN IT.
SEE YOU.
DASH

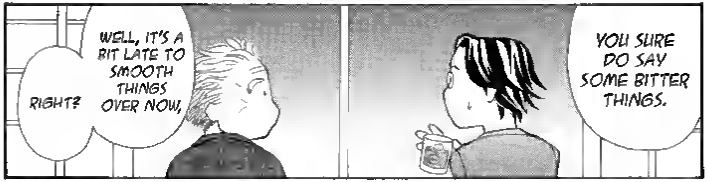
I FEEL LIKE
SHII-III-IIT!!
YOU JUST DON'T WANT ME TO KNOW WHERE YOU LIVE, HUH?!
I SEE.
I DIDN'T DESERVE THAT KIND OF FACE.
BUT STILL!
OH, DAMMIT. I'M SO PIS-SED OFF
REALLY THO-UGH!
SHE CAN PUT ON A SMILING FACE...
17
IN FRONT OF SU-CHAN AND MIDDLE MAN,
BUT NOT ME.
AH, DAMMIT...
BUT...
CLINK

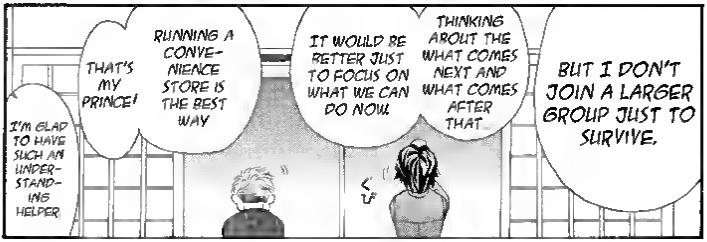

I WAS SURPRISED TODAY THOUGH.
I DIDN'T EVEN EXPECT THAT NATSUKI WOULD LAUGH LIKE THAT.
NATSUKI, YOU ARE SUCH A WEIRDO.
NATSUKI EVEN SEEMS TO BE GETTING ALONG WITH SU RECENTLY.
I SEE, I SEE
SHE REALLY SEEMS TO BE GETTING USED TO ALL OF US
MY PRINCE! WHY DON'T YOU GO TO BED SOON?
YASU PREPARED YOUR BED.
OH, THANKS. I'M SORRY TO CAUSE YOU TROUBLES BY STAYING HERE WITHOUT NOTICE.


WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
THIS IS YOUR PLACE.
YOU LET YASU AND I STAY HERE WHILE YOU RENT ANOTHER PLACE.
WHAT WOULD YOUR FATHER SAY IF HE WERE STILL ALIVE?
HMM ...
HE PROBABLY WOULD SAY SOMETHING LIKE, "YOU GOOD-FOR-NOTHING..!"

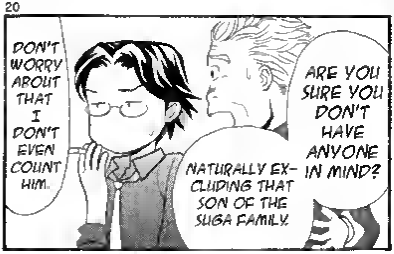
I'M REALLY SORRY, UEDA.
SINCE I MAKE YOU DEAL WITH STUFF THAT ARE OUT OF YOUR LINE, EVEN THOUGH YOU ARE A HEAD
NOT AT ALL.
THEY'VE ALL DISAP-PEARED NOW.
I GUESS THAT MEANS THAT PEO-PLE FOL-LOWED MY FATHER BE-CAUSE THEY RESPECTED HIM.
YOU KNOW, DURING MY FATHER'S TIME THINGS WERE DIFFE-RENT
THAN FROM THE WAY THINGS ARE NOW. HE USED TO RENT ALL THE APARTMENTS AROUND HERE FOR HIS MEMBERS AND TOOK CARE OF THEM.
NO, NOT ONLY THAT.
WELL, ALL I DO IS RUN A CONVENIENCE STORE, A KA-RAOKE BAR, AND PLAY PING-PONG.

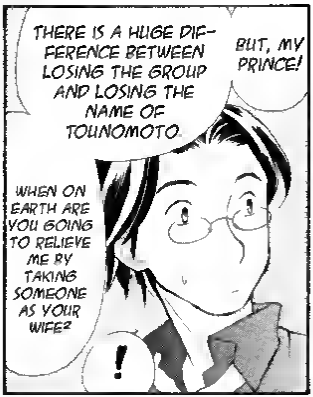
I CAN'T EXPRESS HOW GRATEFUL I AM TO YOU, MY PRINCE. YOU WERE KIND ENOUGH TO TAKE AN OLD MAN WITH NO FAMILY AND BRING HIM INTO THE TOUNOMOTO HOUSE.
AND ALSO, MY PRINCE...
THIS IS A NEW ERA.
THE WAY PEOPLE USED TO GET AHEAD IN YOUR FATHER'S DAY DOESN'T WORK ANYMORE SINCE THE PASSING OF THINGS LIKE THE ANTI-VIO-LENCE LAW
I GUESS
LITTLE GROUPS LIKE OURS WILL DWINDLE SOONER OR LATER, DON'T YOU THINK SO?


WELL, IT'S A BIT LATE TO SMOOTH THINGS OVER NOW, RIGHT?
YOU SURE DO SAY SOME BITTER THINGS.


I'M GLAD TO HAVE SUCH AN UNDERSTANDING HELPER
THAT'S MY PRINCE!
RUNNING A CONVENIENCE STORE IS THE BEST WAY
IT WOULD BE BETTER JUST TO FOCUS ON WHAT WE CAN DO NOW.
THINKING ABOUT THE WHAT COMES NEXT AND WHAT COMES AFTER THAT...
BUT I DON'T JOIN A LARGER GROUP JUST TO SURVIVE.

20


DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT I DON'T EVEN COUNT HIM.
NATURALLY EXCLUDING THAT SON OF THE SUGA FAMILY.
ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T HAVE ANYONE IN MIND?


THERE IS A HUGE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LOSING THE GROUP AND LOSING THE NAME OF TOUNOMOTO.
BUT, MY PRINCE!
WHEN ON EARTH ARE YOU GOING TO RELIEVE ME BY TAKING SOMEONE AS YOUR WIFE?
!

LET'S SEE...
UNFORTUNATELY THERE'S NOBODY AROUND LIKE THAT RIGHT NOW.
NOPE.

HEY, HIROMI I HEARD SOMETHING.
HUH? WHAT?
YOUR PART-TIME JOB IS PLAYING PING-PONG AND NOT AS A CONVENIENCE STORE WORKER?

21

YEAH?
MY JOB IS JUST TO WORK FOR THE CONVENIENCE STORE.
THAT USUALLY DOESN'T HAPPEN OFTEN!
NO IDEA!
THAT'S WHAT I'D LIKE TO KNOW...
DIDN'T THAT MOBSTER TELL YOU TO BEAT OUR UPPER CLASSMAN IN PING-PONG?
HUH?
I DON'T REALLY GET IT, BUT WHY PING-PONG?
THEN,
IT'S DECIDED.
YOU CAN PLAY PING-PONG, RIGHT?
ANYWAY,
I SEE
I CAN MANAGE, YEAH
THAT UPPER CLASSMAN SAID HE LOST IN NO TIME AT ALL.
BUT YOU SEEM TO BE PRETTY DAMN GOOD, RIGHT?
NAH, IT WASN'T QUITE LIKE THAT My opponent was just a total weakling.

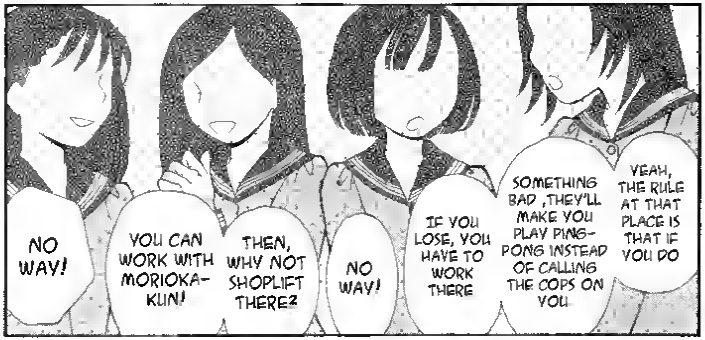
横浜地区 四校対抗 球技大会
GO HIROMI!
GOOD LUCK, MORIOKA -KUN!
JUST ONE PERSON LEFT!
JUST ONE PERSON LEFT!
WOW!!
11-5! GAME TO MORIOKA
スパーン
カッ

Isn't Momoha-kun great?
I was so surprised!
I HAD NO IDEA
I WAS THIS GOOD AT PING-PONG.
WOW
WHY DID YOU KEEP BEING ABLE TO PLAY PING-PONG THIS WELL A SECRET?
WOO HOO! AWESOME, HIROMI!
THE FIRST PRIZE GOES TO CHUOU HIGH SCHOOL!
わあ
ALL OF THE MATCHES WERE A BREEZE.
I SHOULDN'T SAY THAT, THEIR LEVEL WAS JUST DIFFERENT THAN MINE.
IT'S STILL NOT TOO LATE, PLEASE JOIN THE PING-PONG TEAM! LET'S SHOOT FOR THE NATIONALS!
WAA
GOOD JOB, MORIO-kun!
はっ
HO HO HO HO HO
HA HA HA HA
THE KNOW-NOTHING LITTLE FOOL*

*"I NO NAKA NO KAERU" LITERALLY MEANS A FROG IN A WELL, OR SOMEONE WHO ONLY UNDERSTAND THEIR OWN LITTLE WORLD AND NOT THE WHOLE WORLD AROUND THEM. IN THIS CASE, THEY'VE SUBSTITUTED THE WORD "KAERU" AND INSTEAD ARE CALLING HIROMI "KERONKO DEMITAN" A CHARACTER FROM ANOTHER MANGA ABOUT A LITTLE FROG BOY

AH,
THAT'S THE FRESHMAN COURT OVER THERE.
SHE'S A MEMBER OF THE PING-PONG CLUB TOO.
WOW, THE GIRL FROM OUR SCHOOL IS KICKING ASS.
IF I ...
...PLAYED AGAINST HER NOW, I WONDER IF I COULD STILL WIN...
.....

HEY AT THE ATHLETIC MEET THE OTHER DAY,
MORIOKA-KUN FROM 2 WAS HOT, WASN'T HE?
THE PING-PONG PLAYER?
HE SEEMS TO BE WORKING AT A CONVENIENCE STORE IN ISESAKI-CHO.
YEAH! LISTEN, LISTEN, I HEARD THAT MORIOKA-KUN BEAT SOME KARAOKE BAR CUSTOMERS IN A PING-PONG MATCH A WHILE BACK.
WHAT?


YEAH, THE RULE AT THAT PLACE IS THAT IF YOU DO SOMETHING BAD ,THEY'LL MAKE YOU PLAY PING-PONG INSTEAD OF CALLING THE COPS ON YOU.
IF YOU LOSE, YOU HAVE TO WORK THERE
NO WAY!
THEN, WHY NOT SHOPLIFT THERE?
YOU CAN WORK WITH MORIOKA-KUN!
NO WAY!

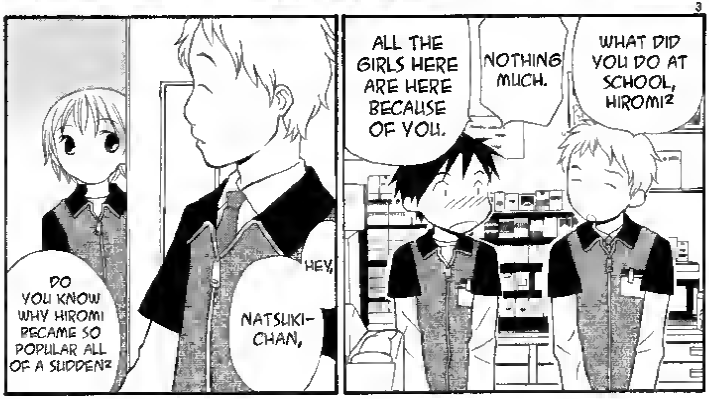
卓球
カラオケ
TAP TAP TAP
OPEN
!

Serve 7 BEYOND DESIRE

HURRY UP! HURRY UP!
IT'S KIND OF BUSY, TODAY
WHAT? WHO IS THIS GIRL?
SHE'S FROM OUR SCHOOL. SHE'S WORKING HERE?
NO WAY! THAT MEANS SHE WORKS WITH MORIOKA-KUN?
OH, WHAT A SHOCK!

YEN PLEASE
EXCUSE ME
WHAT DAYS DO YOU USUALLY WORK HERE?
EH? MY SCHEDULE ISN'T REALLY DETERMINED BY DAY.
THEN, COULD YOU TELL ME YOUR NEXT WORKING DAY?

3

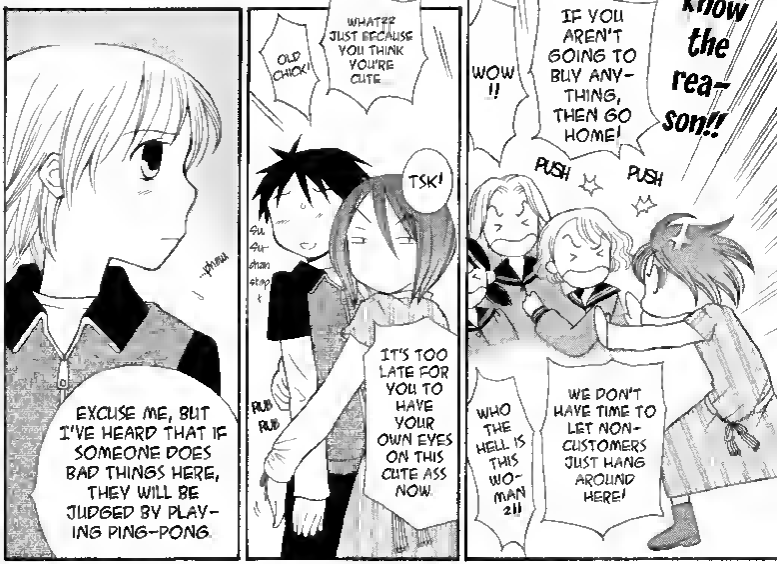

WHAT DID YOU DO AT SCHOOL, HIROMI?
NOTHING MUCH.
ALL THE GIRLS HERE ARE HERE BECAUSE OF YOU.
HEY, NATSUKI-CHAN,
DO YOU KNOW WHY HIROMI BECAME SO POPULAR ALL OF A SUDDEN?

WHAT HAPPENED AT SCHOOL?
.....
AT THE TOURNAMENT, MORIOKA-SENPAI WON FIRST PRIZE IN HIS GRADE LEVEL
OH, I SEE
YOU ALSO WON, DIDN'T YOU?
I GUESS THE CREDIT IS DUE TO ALL THAT HARD TRAINING YOU GOTTA THANK THE OWNER FOR THAT.
ha ha ha
BUT IT'S GOOD THOUGH, HIROMI. MAYBE NOW YOU CAN FINALLY GET A GIRLFRIEND
HOW ABOUT THAT GIRL?
PLEASE STOP POINTING AT PEOPLE, MANAGER
I'LL ARRANGE THE SHELVES
4
SHIT, SHE DOESN'T CARE AT ALL.
OH WELL, THAT DOESN'T MATTER
BASH
BOSH

HEY, WHAT GRADE IS SHE IN?
I DON'T KNOW.
HOW LONG HAS SHE WORKED HERE?
THAT MUST MEAN THAT SHE DID SOMETHING BAD HERE AS WELL, RIGHT?
YEAH, THAT FIGURES SHE LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE WHO'D DO BAD THINGS.
BOSH
BISH BASH
OH, THEY ARE SO ANNOYING
WHO ARE THEY?
I CAN'T BELIEVE THEY ARE FANS OF MORIOKA-SENPAI
5
AH!
HEY, THIS GIRL MIGHT BE MORIOKA-KUN'S GIRLFRIEND
ARE YOU SURE?? THAT UGLY GIRL??
IF IT'S TRUE, MORIOKA-KUN HAS BAD TASTE
DROP

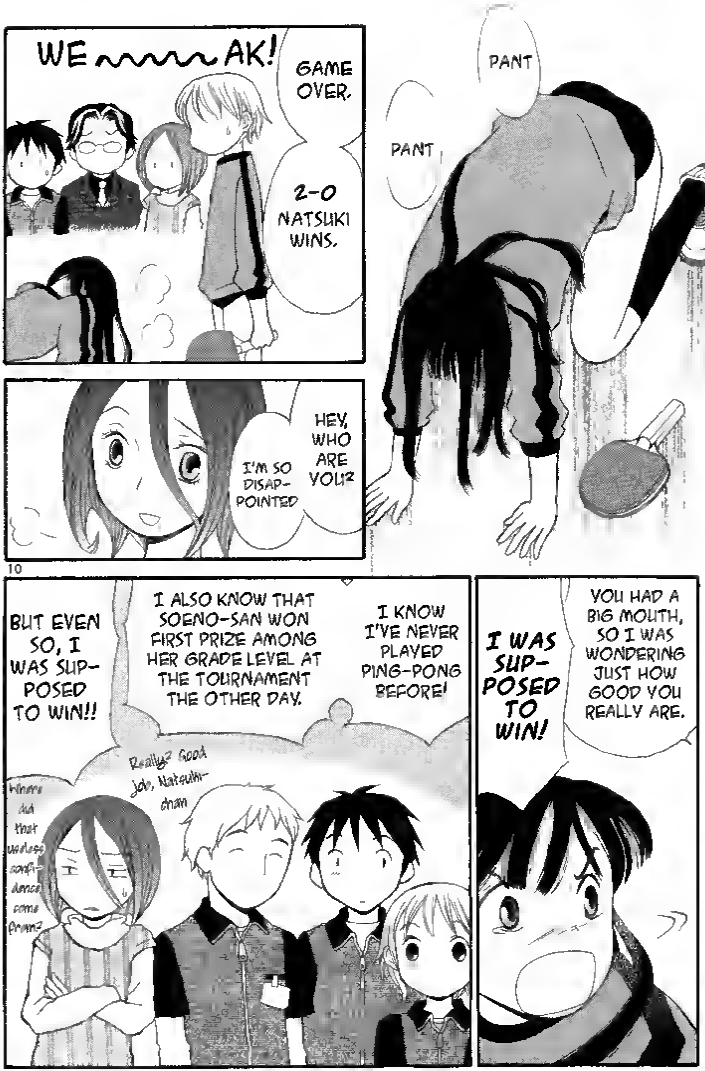
EH?
EXCUSE ME.
つかつか
6
THUD!
DASH
SHOP-LIFTER 2!

WHAT?
TH...
THAT PERSON HASN'T PAID
GO, YASU.
DASH
YES!
HEY, WHAT HAPPENED, NATSUKI?
OWNER! SU-SAN!
7
NOISE
HUH, WHAT WHAT?
ARE YOU SURE? SHE ACTUALLY DID THAT?
DID SHE SHOPLIFT?
NOISE
THAT'S FUNNY. THE BEST THING TO DO IS TO FIRE THAT GIRL WHO WORKS HERE NOW.
THEN, DID SHE ACTUALLY DO THAT FOR MORIOKA-KUN?
HUH?
ARE THEY AFTER HIROMI?
WHAT ARE ALL THOSE AWFUL, FLESHY MASSES?
WELL...
HEY.
I SEE...
FOR THAT CHERRY BOY..

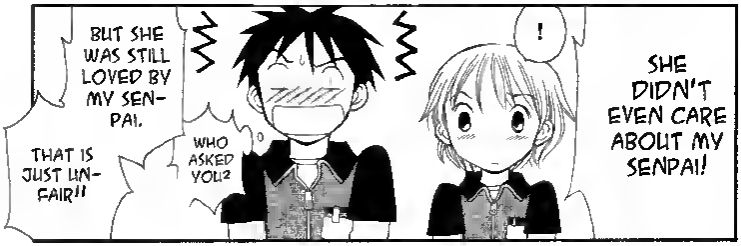

Now I know the rea-son!!
WOW !!
IF YOU AREN'T GOING TO BUY ANY-THING, THEN GO HOME!
PUSH
PUSH
WHO THE HELL IS THIS WO-MAN?!!
WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO LET NON-CUSTOMERS JUST HANG AROUND HERE!
OLD CHICK!!
WHAT?! JUST BECAUSE YOU THINK YOU'RE CUTE...
TSK!
IT'S TOO LATE FOR YOU TO HAVE YOUR OWN EYES ON THIS CUTE ASS NOW.
RUB RUB
EXCUSE ME, BUT I'VE HEARD THAT IF SOMEONE DOES BAD THINGS HERE, THEY WILL BE JUDGED BY PLAY-ING PING-PONG.

CAN I CHOOSE THE OPPO-NENT FOR THE GAME?
Eh?
I...
I WANT TO CHAL-LENGE SOENO NATSUKI-SAN.

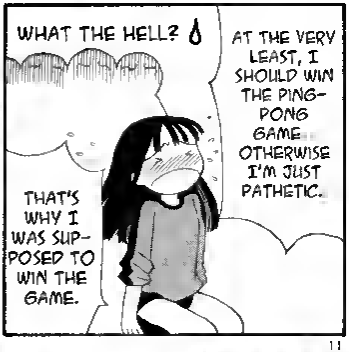
BUT I WILL NEVER LOSE.
OF COURSE, IF I LOSE I WILL DO ANYTHING YOU ASK ME TO.
THERE IS NO WAY THAT I WILL LOSE. ABSOLUTELY NOT.
YOU WERE CHAL-LENGED NOW, YOU MUST AC-CEPT!
GO, NATSUKI! (THERE IS NOTHING WRONG WITH YOU, BUT...)
I GOT IT!
HOT STUFF
It goes without saying, but you have to play in your gym clothes!
SHIT, THIS IS REALLY PUMPING ME UP! ALL GIRL PING-PONG, CAT FIGHT!
HUH?
GO!


WE~~~AK!
GAME OVER.
2-0 NATSUKI WINS.
PANT
PANT
HEY, WHO ARE YOU?
I'M SO DISAP-POINTED
10
BUT EVEN SO, I WAS SUP-POSED TO WIN!!
I ALSO KNOW THAT SOENO-SAN WON FIRST PRIZE AMONG HER GRADE LEVEL AT THE TOURNAMENT THE OTHER DAY.
I KNOW I'VE NEVER PLAYED PING-PONG BEFORE!
Really? Good job, Natsuki-chan
Hmm... did that useless confi-dence come from?
I WAS SUP-POSED TO WIN!
YOU HAD A BIG MOUTH, SO I WAS WONDERING JUST HOW GOOD YOU REALLY ARE.

SINCE I WON'T LOSE IN TERMS OF LOVE AND AFFECTION TOWARD MY SENPAI!
AND...
?


SHE DIDN'T EVEN CARE ABOUT MY SENPAI!
!
BUT SHE WAS STILL LOVED BY MY SENPAI.
WHO ASKED YOU?
THAT IS JUST UNFAIR!!

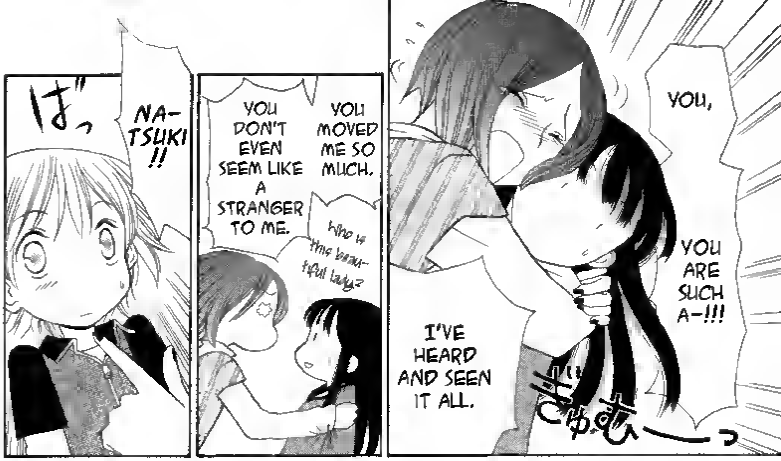
I WAS ABOUT TO ASK HIM TO GO OUT WITH ME
Well, let's see...
AGAIN!


WHAT THE HELL?
AT THE VERY LEAST, I SHOULD WIN THE PING-PONG GAME... OTHERWISE I'M JUST PATHETIC.
THAT'S WHY I WAS SUPPOSED TO WIN THE GAME.

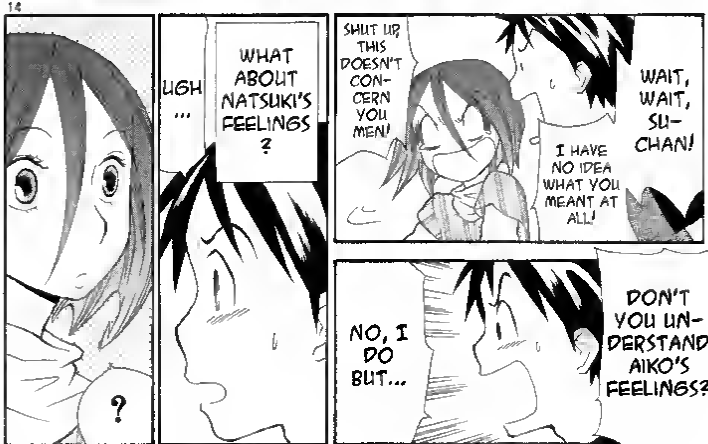
I WAS PLANNING TO CONFESS MY LOVE
AFTER WINNING THE GAME

TO MY SENIOR SHINDAIJI...
...Who the heck is that guy?
I AM MURONAKA AIKO, 1-C IN CHUOU HIGH SCHOOL.
ANYWAY, WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
Wow, it wasn't Hmmm Not Hmmm at all
AND?
THE GUY NAMED SHINDAIJI WHO YOU LIKED..
ALSO LIKED NATSUKI?
THAT'S RIGHT.
!
BUT WHO IS THAT?
I CAN'T BELIEVE HE LIKED THIS TINY LITTLE BRAT.

"I'm sorry, but I like someone else"
"I like you, senpai. Please go out with me"
BUT IT SEEMS HE USED TO COME HERE OFTEN.
HE IS SO SHY,
HUH? OFTEN? I DIDN'T NOTICE ANYBODY LIKE THAT
IN THE END, HE DIDN'T HAVE THE COURAGE TO ASK YOU OUT AND HE GRADUATED
AND I FELT SO SORRY FOR HIM WHEN I SAW THAT
...HE IS GOING TO LIVE BY HIMSELF IN TOKYO SOON.
SO AS ONE LAST MEMORY OF THIS PLACE, WOULD YOU PLEASE GO OUT WITH HIM?
G R A B
IF I COULD GO IN YOUR PLACE I WOULD, BUT I'M NOT THE ONE HE WANTS. SO, PLEASE...
AIKO~!!
SO PATHETIC...
GRASP
!
SOENO-SAN!!
I WILL BEAR THE SHAME OF SAYING THIS, BUT...


YOU,
YOU ARE SUCH A-!!!
I'VE HEARD AND SEEN IT ALL.
YOU MOVED ME SO MUCH.
YOU DON'T EVEN SEEM LIKE A STRANGER TO ME.
Who is this beautiful lady?
NA-TSUKI !!

YOU HEARD IT RIGHT!? THE STRONG SPIRIT OF A WOMAN IN LOVE!
SHE WANTS HER LOVE'S WISH TO COME TRUE EVEN IF IT MEANS SACRIFICING HER OWN FEELINGS TOWARDS HIM.
YOU HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO ANSWER HER REQUEST.
GO OUT WITH HIM RIGHT NOW!


DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND AIKO'S FEELINGS?
NO, I DO BUT...
WAIT, WAIT, SU-CHAN!
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU MEANT AT ALL!
SHUT UP, THIS DOESN'T CONCERN YOU MEN!
UGH ...
WHAT ABOUT NATSUKI'S FEELINGS ?
?

Well, well, well.
DOES HE LIKE NATSUKI?
BUT THE WAY HIROMI PANICKED...
MY GOD, I REALLY BLURTED THINGS OUT...
!
N-NEVERMIND
SUIT YOURSELF!
YES, I WILL.
I WILL GO OUT WITH HIM.
REALLY? SOENO-SAN.
EH?

15

I REALLY APPRECIATE IT
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
MIGHT THIS TURN OUT TO BE REALLY ENTERTAINING?
HUH?
OWNER..?

HEY.
WHAT KIND OF GUY DO YOU THINK WOULD DATE NATSUKI?
APPARENTLY HE USED TO COME BY RUBBERS 7 JUST TO SEE NATSUKI.
DO YOU ALL HAVE ANY IDEA WHO HE MIGHT BE?
HMM, LET'S SEE... NOT REALLY.
I HAVE NO IDEA, EITHER.
16
HEY, YASU!
WHY DON'T YOU FOLLOW THEM ON THEIR DATE?
EH?
AH, I WILL CERTAINLY BE AS DISCREET AS POSSIBLE, BUT...
THAT'S RIGHT
WELL, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT ME TO DO THEN I WILL, BUT...
BUT IF BY CHANCE I AM FOUND OUT, NATSUKI-SAN WILL BE REALLY OFFENDED.
NATSUKI ISN'T A KID ANYMORE...
HAVING SOMEONE WATCH OVER HER WOULD JUST BE CREEPY.
I'M SORRY.
NEVER MIND. FORGET ABOUT IT.
.....

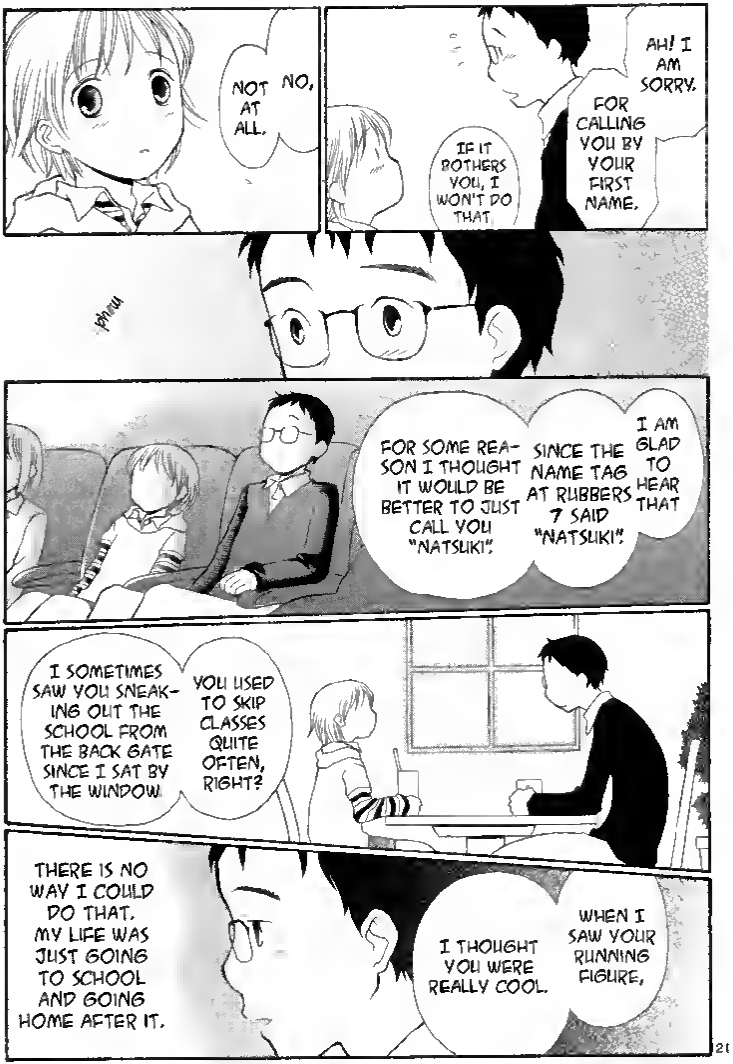
HE MUST REALLY BE WORRIED ABOUT NATSUKI...
Yeah, yeah
RATHER
BEING IN "FATHERLY MODE" IS OKAY, BUT IF IT'S MORE THAN THAT THEN...
YEAH ...
THE BOSS IS REALLY IN FATHER MODE

YES?
i have a favor to ask you. ♡
Yasu-chan ♡

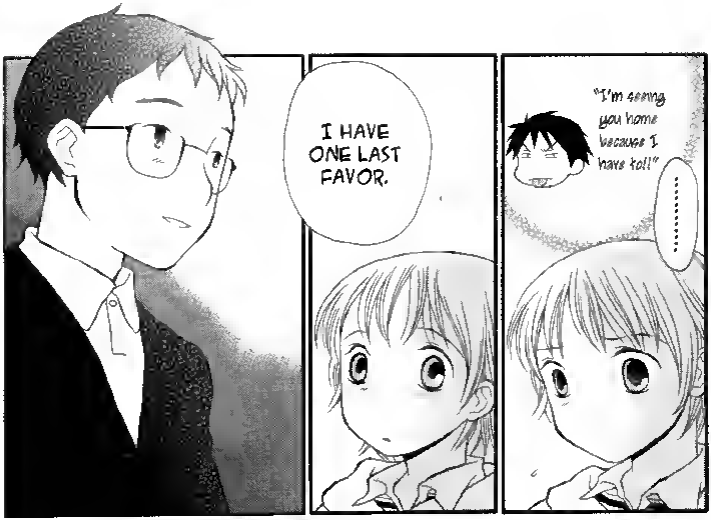
MUNCH MUNCH
ハンバーガー
Y-Y-YES, T-THIS SEAT IS FREE!
SO-SO-SOENO ...
ガタン!
NATSUKI-SAN!!
EXCUSE ME.
IS THIS SEAT EMPTY?
ポロ
WOW ...

MY FRIEND JUST STOOD ME UP, AND I HAVE AN EXTRA MOVIE TICKET.
OH WELL... WHAT SHALL I DO?
WHY ON EARTH IS SHE HERE?
WOW, WOW
HE IS TALL!
I WOULD BE HAPPY IF SOMEBODY WOULD GO SEE THIS MOVIE WITH ME.
コチン
カチン
I AM SOR-RY!
YOU MUST BE SHINDAIJI YUSUKE, RIGHT?
I CAN-NOT DO THIS.
.....
SHE'LL KNOW THAT I KNOW HER NAME...
DAMN IT!
OH
NA-TSUKI-SAN?
NA...
What's with the mono-kano voice?
19

I CANNOT TELL YOU THAT PERSON'S NAME THOUGH
BUT THAT'S WHY I CAME HERE.
OH NO, SHE WASTED LITTLE TIME IN TELLING HIM THE TRUTH
THE TRUTH IS, I WAS ASKED BY SOMEBODY ...
...TO GO OUT WITH YOU JUST FOR TODAY, AND SPEND TIME WITH YOU.
WHAT IS THE TITLE OF THE MOVIE?
20
NATSUKI -SAN.
I WOULD LIKE TO SEE A MOVIE WITH YOU,
"No, nothing."
PLEASE EXCUSE MY RUDE-NESS.
The person you like.
maybe it's—
No, I am glad that you said that to me
"I am sorry"

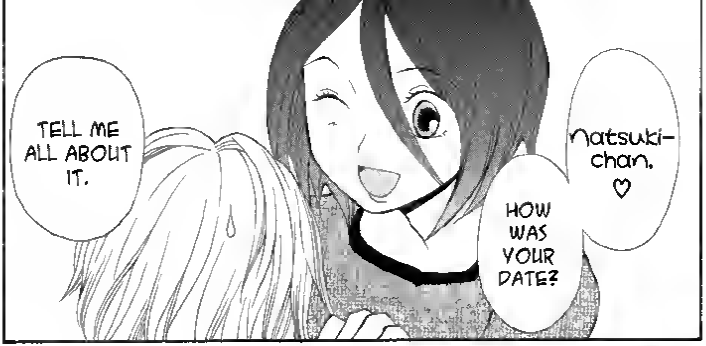

NO, NOT AT ALL.
AH! I AM SORRY. FOR CALLING YOU BY YOUR FIRST NAME.
IF IT BOTHERS YOU, I WON'T DO THAT.
I AM GLAD TO HEAR THAT
SINCE THE NAME TAG AT RUBBERS 7 SAID "NATSUKI".
FOR SOME REASON I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE BETTER TO JUST CALL YOU "NATSUKI".
YOU USED TO SKIP CLASSES QUITE OFTEN, RIGHT?
I SOMETIMES SAW YOU SNEAKING OUT THE SCHOOL FROM THE BACK GATE SINCE I SAT BY THE WINDOW.
WHEN I SAW YOUR RUNNING FIGURE,
I THOUGHT YOU WERE REALLY COOL.
THERE IS NO WAY I COULD DO THAT. MY LIFE WAS JUST GOING TO SCHOOL AND GOING HOME AFTER IT.

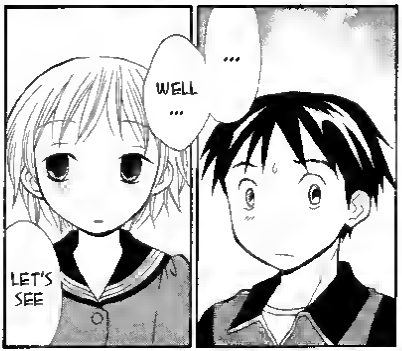
I AM JUST A CHICKEN WHO CAN ONLY HAVE A GOOD TIME WITH THE GIRL THAT I LIKE WITH THE HELP OF OTHERS.
BUT I..
TO HAVE WATCHED YOU ALL THIS TIME..
OH, I'M SORRY. I MUST SEEM SO DISGUSTING.
NOT REALLY
ah!
EH? ARE YOU SURE?
I WILL BE FINE HERE.
WELL,
MY HOUSE IS OVER THERE
THAT WAS MY DREAM TO SEE YOU OFF TO YOUR HOME.
YOU MIGHT LAUGH, BUT
I AM SO GLAD THAT IT CAME TRUE.
"IF I DIDN'T SEE YOU OFF THE MIDDLE MAN WILL BE PISSED OFF!"


I HAVE ONE LAST FAVOR.
"I'm seeing you home because I have to!!"
.....

SHINDAIJI-SENPAI?
HE...
DID HE SAY THAT?
PLEASE TELL HER, MURONAKA AIKO-SAN,
"THANK YOU".

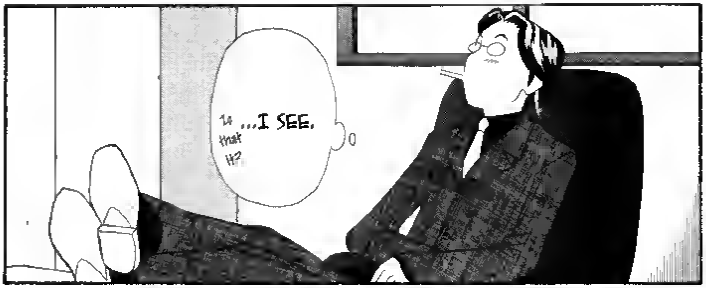
Thank you, Yasu-chan. ♡
Good job, yester-day.
24
HOW WAS IT? HOW DID NATSUKI AND THE BOY WORK OUT?
LET'S SEE... WELL,
AH!!
SH! NATSUKI IS CO-MING!
THANK YOU,
SOENO-SAN!
卓球
カラオケ
7
NO.
I SEE.

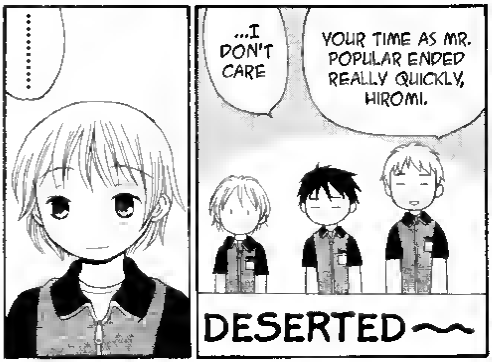

Natsuki-chan. ♡
HOW WAS YOUR DATE?
TELL ME ALL ABOUT IT.

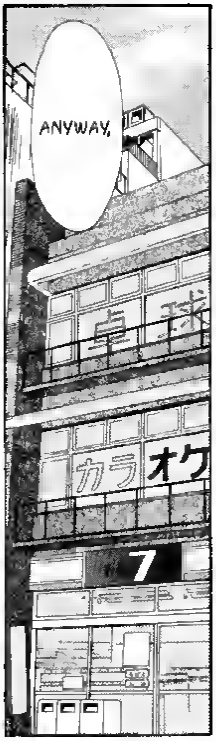

...
WELL ...
LET'S SEE

I guess he was more than 180cm high
YEAH, THE BOY WAS REALLY TALL.
SHE MUST BE TIRED SINCE SHE'S SO SHORT THAT SHE HAD TO LOOK UP AT HIM THE ENTIRE TIME.

MY NECK
IS TIRED.







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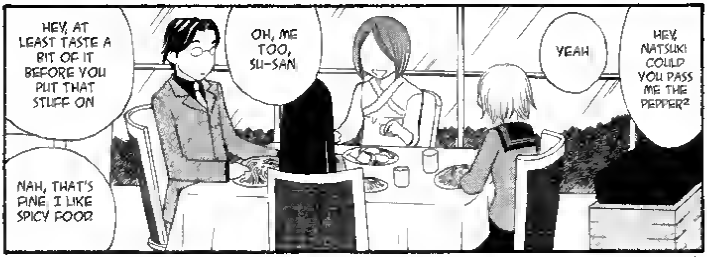
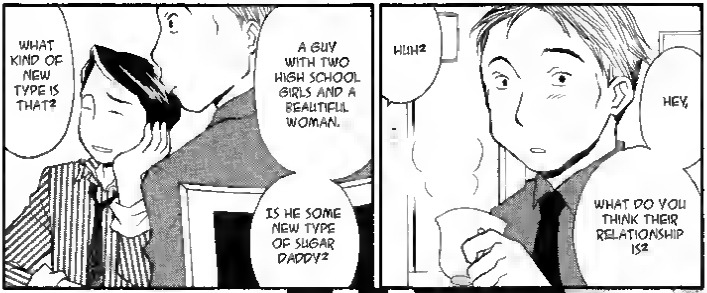
DON'T TALK NONSENSE, YOU DAMN FRUIT!!
IF I HAVE TO LEAVE HER WITH YOU, I'D RATHER JUST HIRE HER TO WORK AT MY PLACE!
AS FOR MURONAKA AIKO, SHE DID SHOPLIFT HERE, SO IT'S BEEN DECIDED THAT SHE WILL WORK AT THE KARAOKE BAR ONCE A WEEK.
Gu-gu-gah...

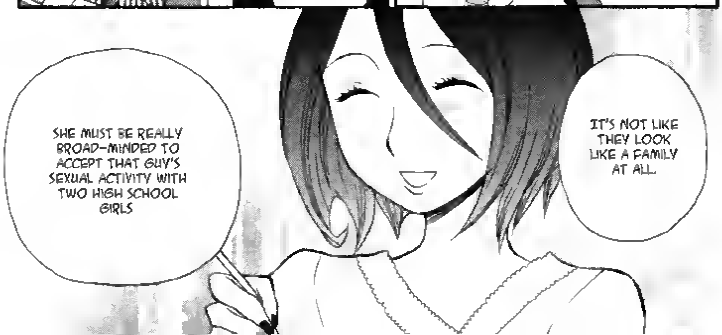
BUT

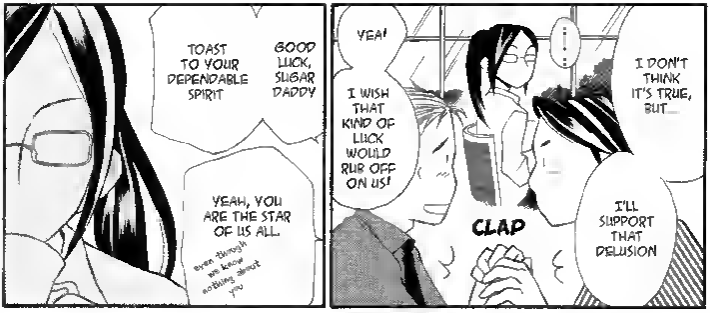
MANAGER UEDA OF THE 2ND FLOOR KARAOKE BAR AND SU-CHAN FIGHT LIKE CATS AND DOGS

THANK YOU FOR TREATING US TO DINNER, OWNER.
Thank you so much, MUNENORI
I WILL EAT NOW OK?
DON'T TELL HIROMI ABOUT THIS, SINCE HE'LL BE JEALOUS


HEY, NATSUKI COULD YOU PASS ME THE PEPPER?
YEAH
OH, ME TOO, SU-SAN
HEY, AT LEAST TASTE A BIT OF IT BEFORE YOU PUT THAT STUFF ON
NAH, THAT'S FINE. I LIKE SPICY FOOD


HEY,
WHAT DO YOU THINK THEIR RELATIONSHIP IS?
HUH?
A GUY WITH TWO HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS AND A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN.
IS HE SOME NEW TYPE OF SUGAR DADDY?
WHAT KIND OF NEW TYPE IS THAT?


IT'S NOT LIKE THEY LOOK LIKE A FAMILY AT ALL.
SHE MUST BE REALLY BROAD-MINDED TO ACCEPT THAT GUY'S SEXUAL ACTIVITY WITH TWO HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS


TOAST TO YOUR DEPENDABLE SPIRIT
GOOD LUCK, SUGAR DADDY
YEAH, YOU ARE THE STAR OF US ALL.
Even though we know nothing about you
YEA!
I WISH THAT KIND OF LUCK WOULD RUB OFF ON US!
CLAP
I DON'T THINK IT'S TRUE, BUT...
I'LL SUPPORT THAT DELUSION

Serve 8

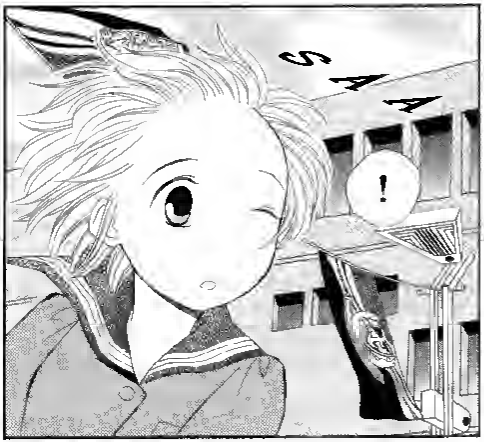
[THE FINAL WEAPON--OLDER SISTER]

HEY! HIROMI.
HIROMI-SENPAI
YEAH
YEAH, WE JUST RAN INTO EACH OTHER OVER THERE
WH... WHAT? ALL OF YOU ARE TOGETHER?
3
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I'VE CAME HERE
STOMP
WHY ARE YOU ACTING LIKE A SUPERVISOR SU~?
HEY, COME INSIDE. GOOD LUCK ON YOUR WORK TODAY

HUH?
OH, OK.
MANAGER, I'M GOING UPSTAIRS
GOOD AFTER-NOON.
WELCOME.
HEY, ALL OF YOU ARE TOGETHER.
4
APPEAR
LONG TIME NO SEE, MANAGER.
!
HMM,
WHERE IS SHE?
SEARCH SEARCH

HEY, IT HAS BEEN A WHILE
PLEASE, COME IN TO THE STORE
THE OWNER JUST ARRIVED SO
WELL, I WON'T SEE HIM TODAY
I SEE
ANYWAYS MANAGER,
WHAT'S WITH THE SCHOOL GIRLS?
AH, THEY ARE PART-TIME WORKERS!
ONE IS WORKING ON THE FIRST FLOOR, AND THE OTHER ONE IS ON THE SECOND FLOOR
I SEE,
ARE THEY WELL-BEHAVED?
YEAH, BOTH OF THEM
I SEE. THANKS
I'LL COME BACK SOON
ALSO, DON'T TELL HIM THAT I CAME HERE

Hihidechō Sta.
高架
地下鉄 阪東橋駅


SAA
!

ロードショー

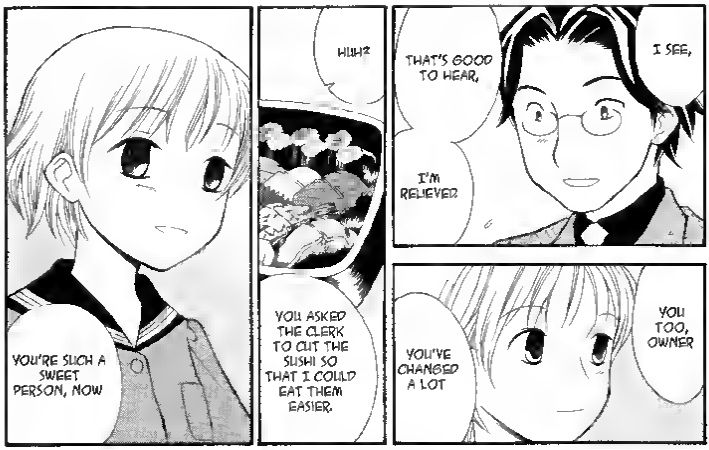
CLACK
…

NATSUKI!
SHE REALLY DOES LOOK LIKE HER.
HEY, ARE YOU SKIPPING CLASSES AGAIN? SUCH A BAD KID
DID YOU EAT YOUR LUNCH?
NOT YET.
THEN, LET'S EAT TOGETHER.
LET'S SEE,
WE'LL HAVE CHIRASHI-ZUSHI AND NIGIRI-JO.
吉むら
YES, I UNDERSTAND.
.....
ALSO, DON'T FORGET TO CUT EACH SLICE OF SUSHI SLIGHTLY WITH A KNIFE.
SORRY FOR THE WAIT.
HERE ARE YOUR CHIRASHI-ZUSHI AND NIGIRI-JO.

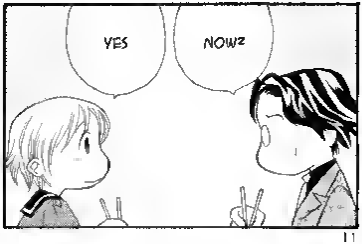
ARE YOU GETTING ALONG WELL WITH AIKO AT SCHOOL?
Y...YEAH
MUNCH MUNCH
.....
.....
IT'S BETTER WHEN THERE ARE MORE PEOPLE WITH US.
She seems to be uncomfortable when it's just the two of us together.
The conversation doesn't go anywhere.
but it's still a tough thing.
She's gotten more used to things
8.
THE PICKLED GINGER, DON'T YOU LIKE IT?
HUH?
OWNER.
If ever
Really
I wonder when she is going to talk to me.

HUH?
SINCE YOU PLACED THE GINGER ON THE EDGE OF YOUR PLATE.
Y... YEAH. I DON'T LIKE IT VERY MUCH
THEN,
GIVE THEM TO ME.
SURE. GO AHEAD
I WILL TRADE SOMETHING FOR THEM.
TAKE WHATEVER YOU LIKE.
EXCEPT FOR THE TUNA.
IS THAT OKAY?
EXCEPT FOR THE TUNA?
YES
I LIKE IT THE MOST OUT OF ALL THE SUSHI
I SEE.
THEN GIVE ME YOUR SQUID
THAT'S GOOD
SINCE I DON'T LIKE SQUID VERY MUCH
YOU LIKE TUNA?
HAHAHA
WHAT WAS THAT?

.....?
OWNER?
OH?
FOR THE FIRST TIME
I JUST NOTICED THAT OUR CONVERSATION LASTED
NAH.
OH...
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU?
I WAS AFRAID THAT YOU MIGHT BE KIND OF ANNOYED
SINCE YOU HAVEN'T TALKED TO ME FOR A LONG TIME
TO TELL THE TRUTH, I WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOU
NO,
NOT AT ALL.


YOU'RE SUCH A SWEET PERSON, NOW
HUH?
YOU ASKED THE CLERK TO CUT THE SUSHI SO THAT I COULD EAT THEM EASIER.
THAT'S GOOD TO HEAR,
I'M RELIEVED
I SEE,
YOU'VE CHANGED A LOT
YOU TOO, OWNER

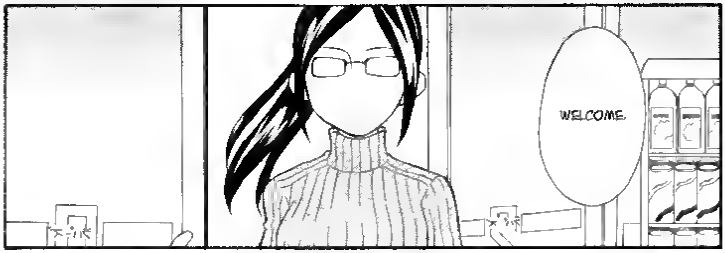
YOU EVEN SAID THAT YOU WOULD MAKE ME YOUR SLAVE
Clack


YES
NOW?

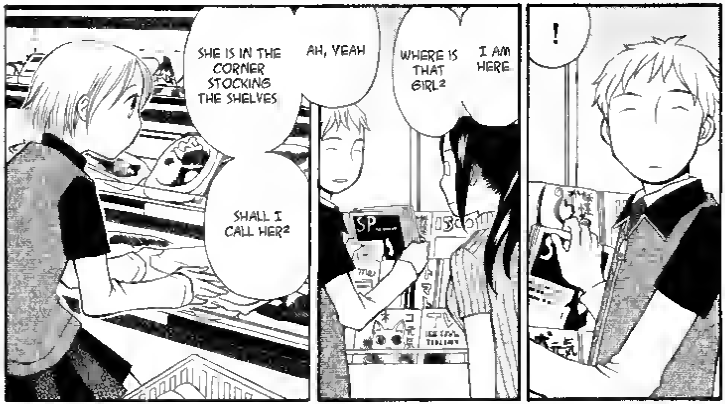
THE FIRST TIME I MET YOU,
YOU WERE SO FRIGHTENING

DING DONG
HIROMI,
ARE YOU GOING TO WORK TODAY?
YEAH, I AM
I SEE,
THEN, WHY DON'T WE GO TOGETHER?
I'M SORRY I'M LATE.
NO, THAT'S FINE
LET ME INTRODUCE YOU, THIS IS HIROMI
NICE TO MEET YOU.
.....
ARE YOU GOING TO STOP BY SOMEWHERE?
HUH?
NAH
I'M GOING TO VISIT YOUR BUILDING ON THE SECOND FLOOR
AH!
THE SECOND FLOOR IS A KARAOKE BAR.
WHO ARE YOU GOING WITH?

YOU MET HER THE OTHER DAY AT THE TOURNAMENT TOO RIGHT?
WE BECAME FRIENDS AT THAT TIME
WHAT "
SHE GOES TO NISHI-HIGH SCHOOL AS A FRESHMAN
OH, I I SEE
NICE TO MEET YOU, TOO
YOU
SON OF A BITCH!!
YOU LEFT ME BEHIND!!
HUH?
LET'S SEE, I SHOULD BE ABOUT...
ANYWAY, HOW MUCH DOES IT COST,
TO DO KARAOKE AT YOUR PLACE?

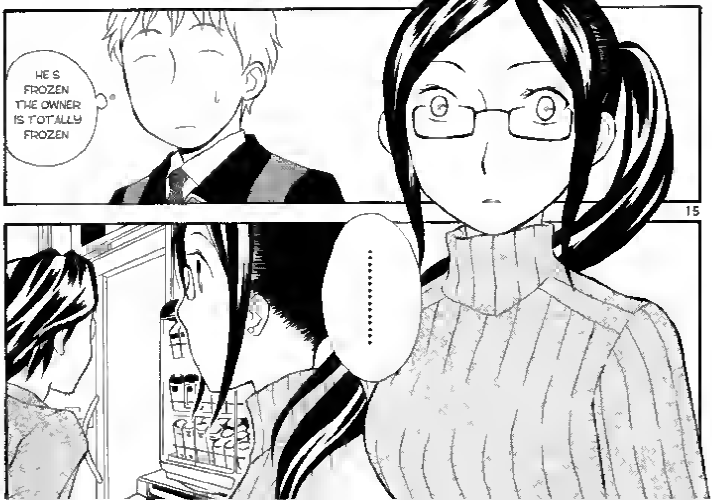

WELCOME.

13

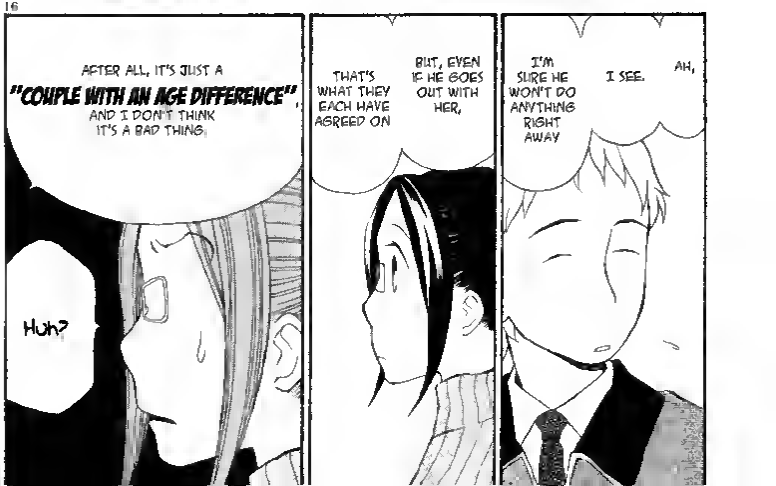

!
I AM HERE
WHERE IS THAT GIRL?
AH, YEAH
SHE IS IN THE CORNER STOCKING THE SHELVES
SHALL I CALL HER?

That's why she's such a pure girl....
THAT'S TOTALLY GOING TO APPEAR IN MY DREAMS
She doesn't even realize the kind of destructive power those words have when you're wearing a school uniform.
BOOM
14
THUD
CLATTER
SLIDE
[You would make me your slave.]

AH, OWNER
LOOK FORWARD, OKAY?
OK,
I'M SORRY


HE'S FROZEN THE OWNER IS TOTALLY FROZEN
.....

Is he some new type of sugar daddy?
He didn't even notice that I was here?!
THAT CHICK IS NOT JUST A PART-TIME WORKER.
THAT MONENOKI!?
WHAT ?
WHAT WAS THAT?
MANAGER!
YES?
IS HE ALRIGHT?
HUH?
SAY HE'S ALRIGHT!

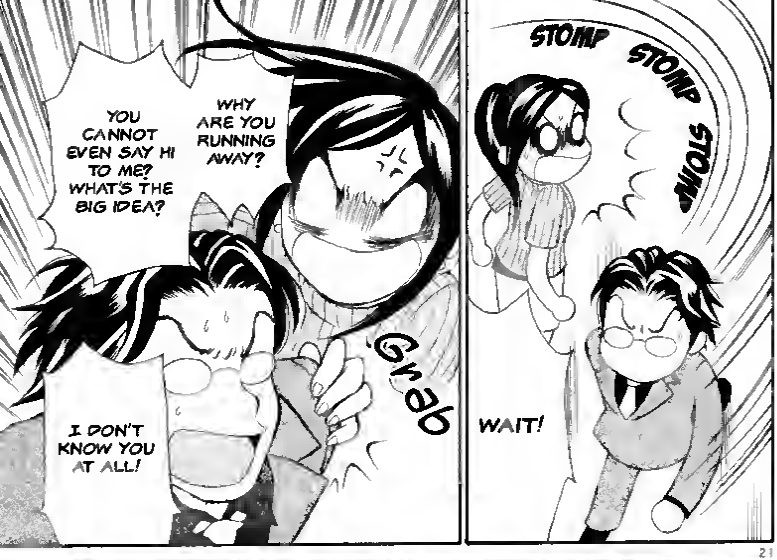

AFTER ALL, IT'S JUST A "COUPLE WITH AN AGE DIFFERENCE", AND I DON'T THINK IT'S A BAD THING.
Huh?
THAT'S WHAT THEY EACH HAVE AGREED ON
BUT, EVEN IF HE GOES OUT WITH HER,
I'M SURE HE WON'T DO ANYTHING RIGHT AWAY
I SEE.
AH,

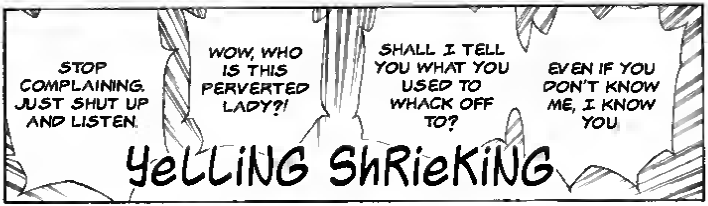
AT THE VERY LEAST, I DON'T THINK SHE HATES HIM
YEAH, I CAN'T SAY FOR SURE BUT...
WHO FEELS THAT WAY?
THAT MEANS IT'S NOT ONLY HIM.
.....
BUT...
WELL, YOU MIGHT BE RIGHT...
DID I SAY SOMETHING WRONG?
WOW,
OH, HIROMI
WELCOME
AS FOR FOOD, YOU'LL GENERALLY NEED TO BUY FOOD DOWN HERE AT RUPPERS 7
OKAY.
HI

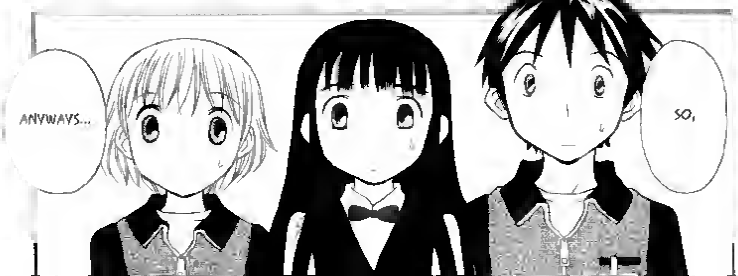
THIS REALLY TAKES ME BACK...
WE WERE IN THE SAME CLASS IN NISHI-JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL.
LONG TIME NO SEE! DO YOU REMEMBER ME?
.....
IT'S YOU, KOBAYASHI-SAN!
KOBAYASHI-SAN?!
KOBAYA-SHI?
HER SURNAME WAS
YOU MOVED HERE, DIDN'T YOU?
I DIDN'T SEE YOU AT THE TOURNAMENT THE OTHER DAY
WHICH SPORT DID YOU PLAY?
BASKET-BALL? VOLLEY-BALL?
OH, MAYBE NOT YOU'RE KINDA SHORT SO...
THEN, PING-PONG?

WHERE IS MUNEN ORI?
LONG TIME NO SEE
WELL WELL
CLICK CLICK CLICK
CLICK
OH, MY PRINCE IS IN THE PING-PONG AREA
CLICK CLICK
BOING BOING
OH!
OH

.....
BOING
CLICK CLICK CLICK CLICK
BOOM
Bap
.....
Tap


STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
WAIT!
WHY ARE YOU RUNNING AWAY?
YOU CANNOT EVEN SAY HI TO ME? WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?
Grab
I DON'T KNOW YOU AT ALL!


STOP COMPLAINING. JUST SHUT UP AND LISTEN.
WOW, WHO IS THIS PERVERTED LADY?!
SHALL I TELL YOU WHAT YOU USED TO WHACK OFF TO?
EVEN IF YOU DON'T KNOW ME, I KNOW YOU
YELLING SHRIEKING

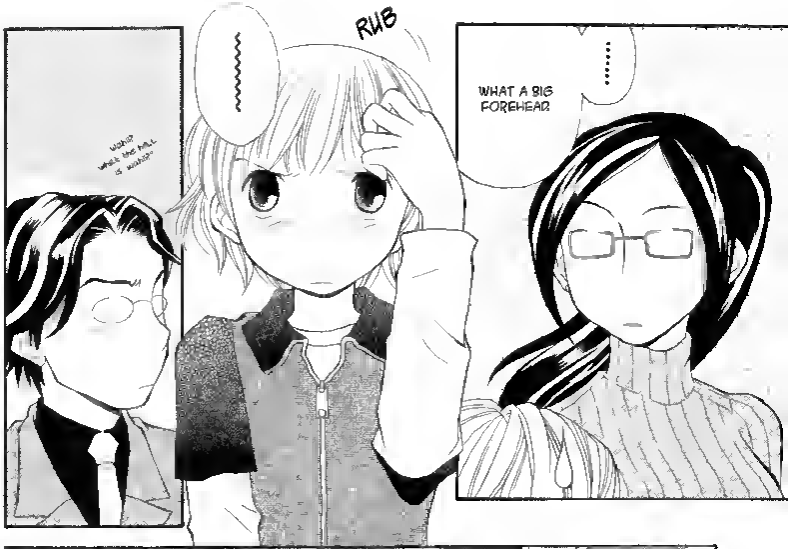

ANYWAYS...
SO,

THIS IS TOUNOMOTO PRESIDENT, TOUNOMOTO SHIE
SHE IS MY OLDER SISTER
I AM THE OWNER OF THIS CONVENIENCE STORE,
BUT SHE IS THE OWNER OF THIS WHOLE BUILDING
NICE TO MEET YOU
SO, PLEASE CALL HER PRESIDENT.
GOT IT²
THE EXACT SAME FACE.
THEY LOOK THE SAME.
EXACTLY THE SAME.
22
AH
YOU WERE CALLED KOBAYASHI EARLIER
AND THEY ARE THE WORKERS MORIOKA HIROMI, MIURONAKA AIKO AND SOENO NATSUKI
SOENO²

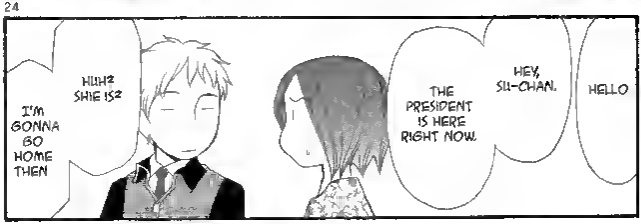
I
I AM SOENO RIGHT NOW.
SINCE MY MOM REMARRIED
23

HUH?
SOENO

SURPRISED
WAH!!!!
Moving


RUB
WHAT A BIG FOREHEAD
WOW? What the HELL is wrong?

ラバーズ7
She looks exactly like her
...the one Munenori fell for


I'M GONNA GO HOME THEN
HUH? SHE IS?
THE PRESIDENT IS HERE RIGHT NOW.
HEY, SU-CHAN.
HELLO

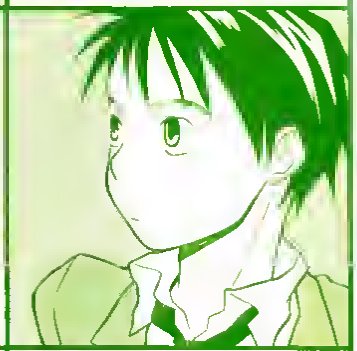
「ラバーズ7」第1集—完—

Natsuki

添野なつき（15）

145cm
39kg
A型
靴のサイズ 22cm

Soeno

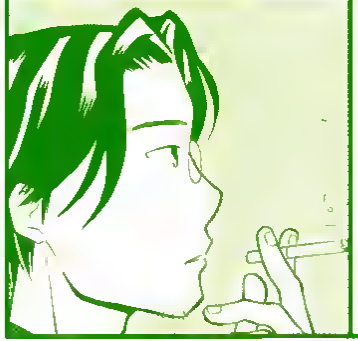


Hiromi

森岡ひろみ（16）

165cm
56kg
O型
卓球のラケットはペンタイプ

Morioka



Munenori

東ノ本宗則（32）

175cm
64kg
O型
視力 右0.1 左0.3

Tounomoto

SUNDAY GX COMICS

伊勢佐木真剣卓球師外伝

ラバーズ7

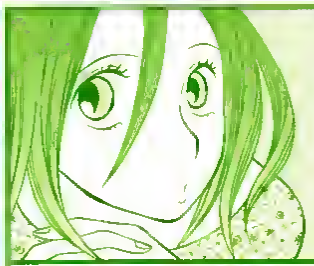
Rubbers Seven

Game 01

犬上すくね

Presented by Sukune Inugami

小学館



須賀淳也（32）

162cm
53kg
AB型
整形は一切していません

Suga

店長（30）

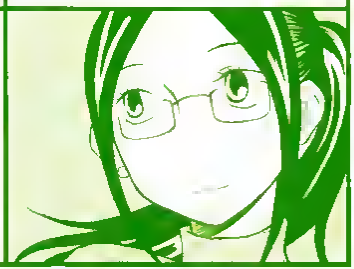
170cm
65kg
A型
妻は元ラバーズ7
バイトの女子

Tenchou

上田（60）

158cm
60kg
O型
背中に昇り龍の彫りモノが

Ueda



東ノ本しえ（33）

160cm
?kg
B型
バツイチ

Shie

Tounomoto

Cover illustration—Sukune Inugami
Cover design—Chord Design Studio

伊勢佐木真剣・撃球・師外伝

ラバーズ Rubbers Seven

Game 01

犬上すくね

Presented by Sukune Inugami

The Building is stuffed with Stories.

Our story begon from here
The first floor is o convenience store
The second floor is o karooke room
And the third floor is
a table tennis place
Now whot kind ol story
will stort today

SUNDAY GX COMICS

Ping Pong or Die!?

ラバーズ Rubbers Seven
Game 01
犬上すくね

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伊勢佐木真剣・撃球・師外伝
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毎月19日発売!!
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犬上すくね Presented by Sukune Inugami

SUNDAY GX COMICS ラインナップ

[COMIC BOMBER萌えろペン]原本和彦 第①～④巻
[新婚行御史]尹仁完＋梁慶 第①～⑦巻
[ジャジャ]えのあきら 第①～④巻
[美女で野獣]イダタツヒコ・ 第①～⑤巻
[ワイルダネス]伊藤明弘 第①～②巻
[この花はわたしです。]猫国雅彦＋国樹由香 第①～②巻
[ブラック・ラグーン]広江礼威 第①～②巻
[FACTORY Z]牧野茂雄＋松枝尚嗣 第①～②巻
[FAOE OUT]いけたかし 第①巻
[素晴らしい世界]浅野いにお 第①巻
[ガールズサウルスOX]樹林 第①巻
[ラバーズ7]犬上すくね 第①巻
[REC]花見沢Q太郎 第①巻
[advent～アドベント～]原尾有美子 第①巻
[ザ・スリーバー]細野不二彦 全⑤巻
[ネコの王]小野敏洋 全⑤巻
[獣星記ギルステイン]酒井直行＋田巻久雄 全④巻
[鉄人]矢作俊彦＋落合尚之 全④巻
[Wake up!]松浦聡彦 全②巻
[ラーゼフォン]BONES＋出渕裕＋百瀬武昭 全③巻
[LET IT BE!!]こいずみまり 全③巻
[トラフィッカー]光永康則 全③巻
[ダンデライオン]落合尚之 全②巻
[天使だけが翼を持っている]萩原玲二 全②巻
[サイコトレーダーちなみ]木村明広 全②巻
[ロケハン]藤気姫 全①巻
[e'イーダッシュ]森見明日 全①巻
[燃えよペン]原本和彦 全①巻
[気やすき喜業館]藤野美奈子 全①巻
[ショック アップ!]広江礼威 全①巻

"TOUNOMOTO BOSS, ONE LAP BEHIND ADOLESCENCE" CHAPTER 1

I CANNOT STAND THIS ATMO-SPHERE. WHAT SHALL I DO?
LET'S SEE.
MAYBE SOMETHING ABOUT THE SCHOOL. OH WAIT THAT WON'T WORK SINCE SHE ALWAYS SKIPS CLASSES

"TOUNOMOTO BOSS, ONE LAP BEHIND ADOLESCENCE" CHAPTER 2
SAAA
OH, I DIDN'T CONCENTRATE ON MAKING IT THOUGH.
BEEP BEEP BEEP
AH I GUESS THE NOODLES ARE READY
This soup looks really yummy
I DIDN'T THINK THAT YOU COULD MAKE FOOD
WOW, WHEN THE AMOUNT IS DOUBLED THE STEAM ALSO DOUBLES
CRAP MY GLASSES ARE ALL FOGGED UP
SAAAA
STEAMY
YEAH?
OWNER?
YES.
IS IT GOOD?
MUNCH MUNCH
spaghetti peperoncino
I SEE.
either way the season NOPE affects me
WELL.
OWNER?
STEAMY
CAN YOU SEE?

伊勢佐木真剣卓球師外伝

ラバーズ7

Rubbers Seven

Game 01

完

Game 02に続く

初代犬上組

構成員

河内愛里

鈴木風太郎

鶴見寛行

功労者

雨月楓

http://www.ht

sakura.ne.jp/~docile/

魚路高広

ラバーズ 7 1

サンデーGXコミックス

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